



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On Sunday May 19, 2019 at 2:14 PM the Park Ridge Fire Department (PRFD) was dispatched to Franklin School, located at 2401 Manor Lane, for an activated fire alarm. PRFD crews arrived in five minutes and began searching the building. The firefighters inside the building located a fire in the electrical room located off of the gymnasium. The PRFD Incident Commander then upgraded the incident to a working fire response which brought additional mutual aid fire department resources to the scene, and also provided backup coverage at both PRFD stations to handle any other emergency calls that occurred while PRFD resources were committed at the fire.

PRFD crews were able to stop the fire in the room of origin before it could spread to the gymnasium. Due to the nature of the burned material in the fire room, there was a considerable amount of smoke that needed to be ventilated out of the building. While this was being done, mutual aid fire companies checked for any fire extension in the building.

At the time of the fire, there were no students or members of the public in the school other than two staff members who were able to evacuate the building safely. There were no injuries to any emergency personnel or anyone else on scene. The building's fire alarm system worked effectively to automatically notify RED Center, the joint dispatch facility utilized by PRFD, who were then able to dispatch PRFD to the scene with no delay.

Due to the fact this fire was located in a public school building, the Office of the State Fire Marshal is working with PRFD investigators to determine the cause of the fire. Preliminary investigation indicates that the fire was determined to be accidental in nature. At this point, the damage to the building and its contents is estimated to be \$75,000.

Mutual aid assistance was provided at the fire by the Des Plaines, Niles, and Morton Grove Fire Departments. Backup coverage was provided at both PRFD stations by the Rosemont, North Maine, Elk Grove Village and Wheeling Fire Departments.