

*South Elgin & Countryside
Fire Protection District*

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Press Release

At approximately 10:45 PM on November 9, the South Elgin Fire District was dispatched for the possible Structure Fire in the 400 block of South Collins Street in South Elgin. Prior to arrival crews were notified that there were three occupants of the home, and one subject was bed ridden and unable to exit the home. On arrival crews found heavy fire coming from a window in the front of the home. The incident was upgraded to a working fire to bring in additional crews. Two occupants had safely evacuated the home, and were reporting the bed ridden subject was in an adjacent bedroom to the fire. First in crews knocked down initial fire from the outside of the front of the home and then moved the hose line to the rear of the home. Utilizing the window in the victim's room, the hose line was used to fight back the fire and cool the victim. Due to the victim's existing medical condition, crews utilized a chainsaw to make the victim's window larger, and with the assistance of one crew inside, the victim was removed through the "modified" window. The victim, who is in her 70's, was transported to St. Joseph's Hospital in Elgin in stable condition with burns and smoke inhalation. Suppression activities continued with the home left significantly damaged by smoke and heat. A second occupant of the home was eventually transported to St. Joseph's Hospital as well with smoke inhalation.

The South Elgin Fire District was assisted by firefighters from the Elgin, Pingree Grove, Bartlett, Elburn, and Fox River and Countryside at the scene. Hanover Park, Geneva, West Chicago, and Hampshire assisted by filling in the fire stations during the incident. At this time two occupants of the home are still in the care of St. Joseph's Hospital in Elgin. The fire is currently under investigation.

Contact:
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