



AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Public Information

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January 1, 2026 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aurora Firefighters Conduct Rescue from Second Floor Apartment Fire on New Year's Day

Aurora, IL – On January 1st at approximately 4:55 p.m., the Aurora Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire in the 300 block of Coventry Court. Initial 9-1-1 calls indicated a stove fire, but additional callers reported visible smoke and a possible occupant still inside the residence. Based on this information, the response was upgraded to a second alarm while units were enroute. A total of 4 engine companies, 2 truck companies, 3 medic units, and 2 chief officers – 29 personnel in all – responded to the scene.

First-arriving crews found smoke coming from the eaves of a two-story, eight-unit apartment building. One team located a woman trapped inside a second-floor apartment. Firefighters used a ladder to reach the window, made entry, and carried her to safety. Paramedics provided care at the scene and transported her to a local hospital for further evaluation.

Crews encountered a frozen hydrant but were able to establish an alternate water supply and extinguish the fire. The fire was contained to the apartment of origin, though a neighboring unit sustained water damage. Both units were deemed temporarily uninhabitable, while the remainder of the building remained intact. A dog from the fire-involved apartment was also located unharmed and safely turned over to family members.

“This was a fast-moving incident with a confirmed victim, and our crews acted quickly to get her out and contain the fire,” said Aurora Fire Deputy Chief Kevin Nickel. “We’re thankful she survived – and proud of the teamwork that helped prevent this from being much worse.”

The cause of the fire remains under investigation by Aurora Fire Department fire investigators. For additional information, please contact the Aurora Fire Department at (630) 256-4000.

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