Fox River & Countryside Fire Rescue District

FOX RIVER & COUNTRYSIDE FIRE/RESCUE DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 23, 2026

Major Residential Structure Fire Requires Extensive Firefighting Operations Over Weekend

ST. CHARLES, IL — The Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue District responded to two major fire incidents over the weekend at a large residential structure located at 4N675 Old Farm Road. The incidents required extensive firefighting operations, significant mutual aid assistance, and ultimately the demolition of the structure to extinguish inaccessible fires.

On Friday, November 20, 2026, at approximately 9:11 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a reported structure fire with flames showing. Arriving crews encountered heavy fire conditions at the rear of an approximately 8,000-square-foot, three-story residence.

Fire suppression efforts were complicated by the substantial size of the structure, limited access for aerial master stream operations, and hazardous interior conditions. Structural collapses and deteriorating conditions severely restricted firefighters' ability to conduct interior suppression operations.

The absence of fire hydrants in the area presented an additional challenge, requiring the establishment of an extensive water shuttle operation to transport water to the scene. The incident escalated to a second-level MABAS box alarm, bringing additional firefighting personnel and apparatus from neighboring departments.

Firefighting operations continued throughout the night, with crews remaining on scene until approximately 4:00 a.m. Saturday.

The residence was vacant at the time of the fire, and no civilians were injured or displaced. One firefighter sustained minor injuries after being struck by falling debris and was transported to Advocate Sherman Hospital for evaluation and treatment. The firefighter was subsequently released from the hospital.

On Sunday, November 22, at approximately 7:28 a.m., firefighters were dispatched back to the property following reports that the fire had rekindled.

Arriving crews encountered active fire involving the roof and several interior areas of the structure. Significant additional structural collapse had occurred since Friday's incident, including the collapse of the entire first floor. These conditions rendered interior firefighting operations too hazardous to undertake.

The remaining fires proved particularly difficult to extinguish, as several areas of active fire were inaccessible from the exterior. A second extensive water shuttle operation was established, and the incident was handled as a general alarm with special requests for additional water tenders.

Ultimately, the structure was completely demolished to provide firefighters access to persistent fires within the basement that could not otherwise be reached. Firefighting operations continued until approximately 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

The residence was a total loss. No injuries were reported during Sunday's operation.

Both incidents required substantial commitments of personnel, apparatus, and resources from numerous neighboring fire departments.

"These were exceptionally challenging incidents that placed significant demands on our personnel and our mutual aid partners," said Fire Chief Michael Hill. "The size of the structure, hazardous collapse conditions, and limited water supply created considerable obstacles to firefighting operations. I am extremely grateful for the dedication and professionalism of all the firefighters who responded, particularly our mutual aid partners who committed their personnel and equipment for extended periods. Their assistance was invaluable."

The Fox River & Countryside Fire/Rescue District gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following agencies and organizations during these incidents:

Bartlett, Batavia, Big Rock, Burlington, Carol Stream, Carpentersville, East Dundee, Elburn, Elgin, Geneva, Hampshire, Hanover Park, Hanover Township, Huntley, Kaneville, Maple Park, Mount Prospect, Pingree Grove, Roselle, Rutland, Schaumburg, South Elgin, St. Charles, Streamwood, West Chicago, and West Dundee Fire Departments and Fire Protection Districts, as well as the Kane County Sheriff's Office and emergency management personnel (OEM).

The District extends its sincere appreciation to all responding personnel and agencies for their professionalism, dedication, and continued partnership.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Investigative efforts have been conducted by the Kane County Fire Investigation Task Force, Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal, and Kane County Sheriff's Office.