



## News Release

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**DATE:**

**October 20, 2023**

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### **Tinley firefighters respond to fire at TPMHC grounds**

The Tinley Park Fire Department was dispatched at 1:10 a.m. Friday to the former Tinley Park Mental Health Center grounds at 183<sup>rd</sup> Street and Harlem Avenue for a building fire.

Upon arrival, firefighters found the south side of the recreational building in the residential area of the campus on fire. Firefighting operations were hampered by several factors, including poor lighting, no working fire hydrants, very thick overgrowth and the dilapidated and dangerous condition of the abandoned building. It took firefighters more than an hour to get the fire under control.

“This is the second significant fire that the Fire Department has responded to on this property within the last six months, with the last one back on April 28,” Village Manager Pat Carr said. “This property has become a homeless encampment and poses an extremely high danger for these people and our firefighters due to the poor condition of the property.”

Several other area fire departments assisted in suppressing the fire.

“This entire campus needs to be secured immediately or these fires will continue and ultimately will put our firefighters at great risk of injuries, not to mention the potential harm to area residents from the smoke,” Fire Chief Steve Klotz said.

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