

July 23, 2013

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Fire Department invites discussion on CPR, AED training**

Springfield Fire Chief David Hall is hoping that a meeting Wednesday, July 24 will lead to a renewed interest in a community-wide push to get more people trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and to increase access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

The City of Springfield is nearing the end of a yearlong campaign to get 100% percent of its roughly 1800 employees trained. AEDs have been reassessed and deployed throughout municipal facilities, and employees are learning where those AEDs are located, and how to use them. Currently, more than 70% of employees have been trained.

For every one minute a person is in cardiac arrest, his or her chances of survival go down by 10 percent. Chances of survival increase two to three times, however, when CPR is performed and/or an AED is used.

Hall says he is encouraged by the number of partners who have agreed to gather at the meeting, which takes place 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, at the Springfield-Greene County Public Safety Center, 330 W. Scott Street. "We need to collaborate to make the life-saving efforts a success," he said.

The meeting comes on the heels of a decision by Springfield City Council to repeal the \$35 registration fee businesses previously had to pay each year to register an AED. "The fee was a potential deterrent in getting more AEDs in the community, so we eliminated it," Hall explains.

Among those invited to the meeting include representatives from the City of Springfield Fire Department, Ozarks Technical Community College's AED Center of Excellence, American Heart Association, American Red Cross, Mercy, CoxHealth and Safety Council of the Ozarks.

Media are invited to attend. For more information, contact City of Springfield Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, Cora Scott at 417-864-1009 or [cscott@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cscott@springfieldmo.gov) or Springfield Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at (417) 864-1699 or [cerwin@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cerwin@springfieldmo.gov)