

May 31, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Fire Departments hosts HazMat training

The Springfield Fire Department and the Logan-Rogersville Fire Protection District are hosting Missouri's first ever Hazardous Materials Technician course that qualifies attendees to become certified Hazardous Materials Technicians through the Missouri Division of Fire Safety. The course is being funded and delivered at no cost to area fire departments, as well as local industry, by Missouri's Emergency Response Commission (MERC). The course is intensive training that takes 88 hours to complete and concludes with 8 additional hours of testing through the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Springfield Assistant Fire Chief Andy Woody says, "As chemicals have become more and more complex, the need for more intensive training for those who respond to releases of those chemicals has only increased. This course not only expands the amount of initial training, the state certification provides an extra level of comfort to Missouri citizens that the responder's skills have been independently validated."

While federal law allows local jurisdictions to determine how much training is required to be classified as a Hazardous Materials Technician, the National Fire Protection Agency has developed a nationally recognized consensus standard that establishes job performance requirements that should be mastered to perform duties at the technician level. While the previous course consisted of only 40 hours of classroom training, the new course has been certified to meet updates in the standard, requires 88 hours of training, and then each successful candidate must demonstrate the skills required in the standard.

The course is being held at Springfield's Fire Station 12 on Blackman Road and will conclude this Friday, May 31, 2013 with certification testing the following week at Logan-Rogersville's Fire Station 1 on Highway 125.

The media is invited to attend the practical skills training today at Springfield's Fire Station 12 at 2360 S. Blackman Road at 1 p.m.

For more information contact: Battalion Chief Richard O'Connor, 417-840-8575.