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News Release

For Immediate Release

Track Public Safety With Three New Online Tools

The Springfield Police and Fire Departments have three new online tools available for citizens to more easily keep the pulse of public safety in the city.

The Police Department is now using CrimeReports.com to show all crime activity reported in Springfield. SPD has also set up a separate "meth map" that shows where police are recovering meth labs and materials related to making meth so that residents can be more aware of this dangerous substance in their area. A new Fire Incident Map shows residents where the Springfield Fire Department is responding to fire and other types of calls across the city.

All three tools are linked at the City’s website on the Interactive Maps page, http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/1568/Interactive-Maps. The two police maps are linked on the SPD homepage at http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/171/Police. The Fire Incident Map is also linked on the Fire Department’s homepage at http://mo-springfield.civicplus.com/399/Fire-Department.

Crime Reports.com

The SPD is now using CrimeReports.com to allow the public easily accessible information about the location and nature of crimes in Springfield. The public can access the crime map 24 hours a day on the website, or through the CrimeReports iPhone app, available for free at the Apple iTunes store. The service also lets citizens sign up for free customizable e-mail alerts, so they can stay on top of crime in their neighborhood.

The map can be viewed by type of crime, date or distance from a specified location. Crime types are shown as easily identifiable icons that can be clicked for further information. The map can be customized in a number of ways to focus on the type of incident residents are most interested in following. CrimeReports.com also lists registered sex offender data complete with name and address information.

The CrimeReports.com tool replaces the Crime Seen tool as the primary way for citizens to track local crime data online.

Meth Map

The Police Department’s “meth map,” which is separate from the CrimeReports.com map, provides information about the growing problem of meth labs, which are on the rise in the Springfield area. Citizens will be able to view the location of all meth-related activity and what was found there. Meth incidents will be displayed on the CrimeReports.com map, but the meth map is intended to give more detailed information about these crimes.

There are three criteria used by the Department to place a location on the map. The map will show meth locations based on three criteria:

- Testing confirmed the presence of methamphetamine
- People with direct knowledge admitted to the making or presence of meth
- A DEA-certified disposal contractor was dispatched to the scene for collection

The number of meth labs located in the city has increased from 19 in 2009 to 44 in 2010.

Fire Incidents

The Fire Department is now using the Fire Incident Map to show the location of all fire, EMS and other incidents in which Fire Department responders were called to the scene. The incidents are broken down by categories that include structure fires, vehicle fires, medical calls, motor vehicle accidents, bombs, false calls and more. The Fire Incident Map tracks incident locations during the last six months.

For more information about the CrimeReports.com map or the meth map, contact: Lt. David Millsap, (417) 864-1751. For more information on the Fire Incident Map, contact Fire Chief David Hall, (417) 864-1507. For more information about any of the above, contact: Mike Brothers, Department of Public Information, (417) 864-1119.