February 23, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Apartment Fire Ruled Accidental

The fire that occurred Wednesday morning at an apartment complex at 424 W. Mount Vernon St. has been ruled accidental by the Springfield Fire Department.

The fire was caused by an individual using a heating lamp to keep a motorcycle warm. The motorcycle was covered with a tarp and carpeting, which were ignited by heat from the heating lamp. The motorcycle’s proximity to the building allowed the fire to spread to the apartment building. Eight of the 16 units in the building were left uninhabitable after the fire.

This is the second fire involving a motorcycle parked too close to a building in recent years. The previous fire involved a motorcycle parked under a stairwell in the breezeway of an apartment complex. While no fire codes were violated, these incidents stress the importance of keeping safety in mind when it comes to vehicles parked near a building or within a garage.

For more information, contact: Randy Villines, Assistant Fire Chief, (417) 864-1527.