For Immediate Release

July Fires Prompt Reminder to Check Smoke Alarms

The Springfield Fire Department responded to 20 working structure fires in the month of July. This fact should serve as a reminder that all citizens should take a moment to check their smoke alarms for proper operation.

The City and the Fire Department have declared 2011 the “Year of the Smoke Alarm” and have set a goal of installing 1,100 alarms by year's end. As of today, the Department has installed 874 smoke alarms throughout the community — or just under 80 percent of the goal.

In 90 percent of the fires in Springfield where a fire fatality occurred in recent years, a working smoke alarm was not present. In about 25 percent of those, the battery was missing.

Anyone in need of a smoke alarm or a smoke alarm test can contact the Fire Department at (417) 864-1500 for more information.