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**News Release**

*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.