

**September 07, 2011**

**News Release**

*For Immediate Release*

**Update on Fire Fighters Involved in Wednesday Morning Accident**

Fire fighters Tim Hendrix and Alex Hodge were treated and released from the St. John's Hospital emergency room today following an accident that resulted in an overturned fire truck on U.S. 65 this morning.

The third fire fighter, who was driving the vehicle, suffered serious but non-life-threatening injuries and remains at St. John's. All three were wearing safety belts at the time of the accident.

The cause of accident is under investigation by the Springfield Police Department. Engine 11, based out of Fire Station No. 11 at 4940 S. Fremont Ave., was not responding to an emergency call at the time of the accident. The crew of three was en route to a training exercise. No other vehicles were involved.

The engine was about 13 years old and nearing the end of the typical 15-year lifespan for active use of such vehicles. Including equipment, the replacement cost of an engine is approximately \$500,000. The City in the process of working with its auto and property insurance carriers, pending the results of the investigation.

For more information, contact: Assistant Fire Chief Randy Villines, (417) 864-1527; or Mike Brothers, Co-Interim Director of Public Information, (417) 864-1119.