

March 06, 2014

News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Fire Department promotes fire safety with upcoming apartment canvass**

A majority of residential fires in the City of Springfield occur in rental properties. In fact, in 2013 alone, Springfield firefighters responded to 70 fires in multi-family dwellings. Most of those fires were preventable, caused by mistakes such as careless smoking and careless cooking. Apartment fires are particularly concerning to the fire service because one person's actions puts dozens of lives at risk. To address this issue, over the next 2 weekends, the Springfield Fire Department will be educating tenants about safe apartment living.

Beginning this Saturday, Springfield Fire Companies will be visiting multiple apartment complexes throughout the City. During their visits, they will distribute educational materials that contain fire prevention and fire code information specific to apartment living – topics that we have seen as the cause of fires in apartments such as careless smoking, BBQ grill usage, and general housekeeping.

During our last apartment canvass in November, firefighters distributed information to more than 8,500 tenants, in hopes of reducing the number of fires in our community. The Department also continues to visit apartment complexes following smoking-related fires to distribute information about the dangers of smoking. This apartment canvass continues our efforts to be proactive in preventing fires.

**For media only:** Media are welcome to attend our canvass, with permission of the property owner. For a list of which complexes we will be visiting, contact Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at [cerwin@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cerwin@springfieldmo.gov).