

November 27, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Final apartment canvass of 2013 targets careless smoking

On Saturday, Nov. 30, fire crews from the Springfield Fire Department will conduct their final apartment canvass of the year. During the educational campaign, fire companies will visit nearly two dozen apartment complexes throughout the City to distribute information on how to prevent fires caused by common hazards such as careless smoking. Springfield will be joined by Nixa and Battlefield Protection Districts, both of which will be conducting educational canvasses at apartment complexes in their own jurisdictions.

Among the apartments area fire crews will visit are complexes managed by Affiniti Management Services. The management company announced this week a unique plan to reduce careless smoking fires by adding an addendum to their lease agreement requiring residents who smoke to use an approved outdoor ashtray on patios and balconies to help reduce the risk of fires associated with the improper disposal of cigarettes.

Affiniti complexes included in this weekend's canvass include the Villages at Nathanael Greene (1950 S. Scenic) and Tall Grass Apartments (1029 W. Battlefield) in Springfield, The Pavilion on Battlefield (3039 S. Ridgecrest Ave.) in the Battlefield Fire Protection District and Crosswood Apartments (301 W. Center St.) in Rogersville.

According to the [United States Fire Administration](#), every year, almost 1,000 people are killed in home fires caused by cigarettes and other smoking materials. Since January of this year, fire crews have responded to more than 40 fires in multi-family housing units across Springfield. More than 40 percent were caused by careless smokers.

For the last year, the Springfield Fire Department has visited apartment complexes following smoking-related fires to distribute information about the dangers of smoking. This apartment canvass and progressive steps by Affiniti Management Services build upon that campaign by being proactive in an effort to prevent fires.

Media Only

Springfield is scheduled to begin the canvass at 1:30 p.m. Please contact the Battlefield Protection District and Logan-Rogersville Protection District for information about their canvasses. For interviews, please contact Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at 864-1699 or cerwin@springfieldmo.gov prior to the start of the canvass. For a representative from Affiniti Management Services, please contact Lonnie Funk at 417-268-5480.