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City of Springfield Fire Rescue Division Partners with Local Organizations to Promote Safety

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO – (Aug. 29, 2017) – Many departments/divisions in the City of Springfield engage in community partnerships that allow them to get involved with the community in a more hands-on capacity. The Fire Rescue Division has many partnerships throughout Clark County, including organizations such as the Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Team, the Hazardous Incident Response Team (HIRT), Wittenberg University, the Red Cross, Clark County and the City of Springfield.

In 1992, the Clark County Fire Chiefs Association created the Clark County Hazardous Response Team. The Chiefs funded the team with a 10-cent per capita fee for all member jurisdictions, as well as a \$385,000 grant for the purchase of a HAZMAT vehicle. Today, the Clark County HAZMAT Response Team provides services everywhere in Clark County and also responds to the western half of Madison County.

For several years, Springfield's Fire Rescue Division has partnered with township departments to augment and improve the response capabilities of the Clark County HAZMAT Team. The City of Springfield Fire Division houses and staffs the HAZMAT response vehicle. Springfield Township Fire Department houses and staffs the decontamination trailer, the Mad River Township Fire Department houses and staffs the damming and diking trailer and the Madison Township Fire Department houses and staffs the support trailer. For over 25 years, these partnerships have played a major role in helping keep the citizens and the environment of Springfield and Clark County safe from the negative effects of hazardous material spills.

The HIRT assists with rescues from confined areas that are not designed for human occupancy, such as sewer pipes or chemical tanks. Some of these services overlap with the HAZMAT team, but the HIRT also provides specialty rescues such as a High Angle Rope Rescue, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Ice Rescue, Machine Extrication and Vehicle Extrication. Springfield's Fire Rescue Division staffs the HIRT 365 days a year and offers these services to surrounding areas, and other local fire departments.

Additionally, the Fire Rescue Division and the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response teams provide mutual aid to any nearby county or township agency. Throughout the City of Springfield, aside from responding to emergencies, the Fire Rescue Division provides a building



plan review to assess the safety of all construction projects, as well as a review of the City water system and fire hydrants in areas beyond City jurisdiction.

The Fire Rescue Division also partners with Wittenberg University to train all Resident Assistants in fire alarm evacuation and crowd control.

“We are pleased to continue to offer these many valuable partnerships throughout our community and beyond,” said Fire Chief Nick Heimlich. “Our first priority is keeping people safe, and responding to emergencies is only part of the greater effort that the wonderful men and women in this division strive for.”

For more information about the City of Springfield, visit www.springfieldohio.gov.

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