



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Detectors Purchased with Levy Dollars Credited for Saving Lives in CO Scare

SPRINGFIELD, OH (January 28, 2019) — More than 100 people were likely saved from carbon monoxide poisoning thanks to new equipment purchased with tax levy dollars approved by Springfield voters in 2017, officials announced Monday.

On Jan. 16, paramedics responded to a routine medical call at Springfield Towers, located at 363 E. High St. Once on scene, the newly-acquired carbon monoxide detectors purchased by the fire department went into alarm. Firefighters determined that the scene was a major CO incident and evacuated the building. Upon investigation, the CO levels were found to be over 150 parts per million. Concentrations of 200 PPM can cause health issues in as little as two hours. No one was injured as a result of carbon monoxide exposure.

The carbon monoxide detectors were purchased last year and put in service on Dec. 17.

“This could have been a very tragic loss had those CO levels not been detected,” said Springfield Fire Chief Brian Miller. “Without those levy dollars, we would not have been able to purchase these devices. Countless lives were saved as a result.”

In 2017, Springfield voters approved a .4 percent earned income tax increase to fund city services including public safety, economic development and neighborhood street repairs.

“We asked voters to approve this levy so we could purchase equipment such as these life-saving carbon monoxide detectors that helped us avert a potentially devastating situation,” said City Manager Jim Bodenmiller. “This is one of the promises we made to voters – to use a portion of these funds to further promote public safety, and that is what we’ll continue to do.”

Following the evacuation, the CO levels were traced to a furnace, which was shut down and subsequently repaired. The building residents were safely returned to their apartments the same day.