



City of Madison Fire Department

News Release

Date: November 22, 2008

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Odor Investigation at 210 State Street Has MG&E Investigate Further

On Saturday, November 22, 2008 at 12:48 PM, Firefighters on Engine 1 and Rescue 1 were called for an odor investigation at 210 State Street. Crews proceeded to apartments on the 3rd floor where the original caller of 911 was received. Once on 3rd floor, several crew members were met with something that “took their breath away.” They backed off immediately, and initiated a full response for additional assistance.

Engine 1, Rescue 1 along with Engine 4, Ladder 1, Engine 3, Car 31, Rescue 4, Ladder 6 and PIO 79 were all called to the scene.

Several occupants from the eight apartments at 210 State Street, along with patrons from Espresso Royale Cafe and Paul’s Club evacuated on their own. Initially, some of the residents from the apartment complex felt ill, but no one was transported or treated at the scene.

Ladder 6, HazMat Crews monitored the building for VOC – Volatile Organic Chemicals, finding no readings on any floor. Carbon Monoxide readings were found on the 2nd and 3rd floor of 210 State Street, but no CO readings were found from the basement, restaurants or 1st floor levels. Patrons and residents were allowed to enter the restaurants and 1st floor, but not 2nd and 3rd floor apartments of 210 State Street.

Crews ventilated the building, and waited for MG&E to arrive. MG&E also took readings and found CO levels on the 2nd and 3rd floors of 210 State Street to be high.

Residents from 2nd and 3rd floor apartments are not allowed to be inside their residences for long periods, until MG&E completes their investigation. A cat was removed from a 3rd floor apartment.

MFD cleared from the scene at 2:27PM. MG&E remained on scene.

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Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a leading cause of poisoning deaths in the US. CO is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas produced by burning any kind of fuel.

Sources of Carbon Monoxide (CO)



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The most common indoor sources of CO are combustion appliances such as:

- Gas stoves, ranges and ovens
- Gas or oil water heaters
- Space heaters (kerosene heaters) especially for hunting and ice fishing
- Gas dryers
- Oil, wood or gas furnaces
- Gas and wood fireplaces
- Charcoal grills
- Automobiles
- Lawn mowers and other gas powered lawn equipment and small engines

Other indoor sources include smoke from tobacco products (cigarettes, pipes, cigars), candles and incense.

Install CO detectors near the ceiling of your home on each floor, and in sleeping areas. Detectors should not be placed within five feet of any gas burning appliances or near cooking or bathing areas. Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper placement with a given area. CO detectors are for added safety, not as a replacement for proper use and maintenance of your appliances.

For further poison education information contact: Poison Prevention & Education Center at 265-8160.

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