



SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – January 7, 2013

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM 231 CHESTNUT ST.

The Salem Fire & EMS Department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm at the Chestnut Manor Apartments Sunday evening, January 6, at approximately 5:48 p.m. A working carbon monoxide alarm alerted residents to the leak and the first units arrived within five minutes of receiving the 911 call. Firefighters quickly evacuated the building after finding carbon monoxide levels exceeding 400 parts per million. Long term exposure to carbon monoxide levels, as low as 35 parts per million, may cause headaches and dizziness.

Seven residents were transported to LewisGale Medical Center for evaluation, as crews worked to find the source of the carbon monoxide. In addition, the City of Salem Building Official and the Roanoke Gas Company were called to the scene to evaluate the building.

Salem's Building Official ordered that a section of the building be vacated until repairs could be made to the furnaces. Progress was made to repair the heating units today, but the affected areas have not been cleared to reopen. Most of the residents of the building made plans to stay with family and friends, while the Red Cross assisted one family with lodging.

Approximately 26 personnel from the Salem Fire & EMS Department and the Salem Rescue Squad responded to the call. The Salem Fire & EMS Department would like to remind everyone of the importance of having a carbon monoxide detector that is working properly.

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