

Crews Run Possible Intentional CO Poisoning

Thursday, August 23 2012 19:25 - Last Updated Thursday, August 23 2012 19:44

At approximately 1540 hrs. on Thursday, August 23, 2012 a citizen called the station to advise of multiple alarms going off in a townhouse in the 5700 block of 45th Avenue in Hyattsville. After gathering the pertinent information from the citizen and advising them to dial 911, the station officer began to notify public safety communications via the station direct line when a call for a possible working code came out for the same locality. While enroute PSC advised they had also received a call for CO alarms with one not breathing at the same address.

Both Engine 807 and Ambulance 807 responded with full crews. When the Engine arrived on the scene they proceeded to make entry on side alpha of the townhome. Meanwhile, a neighbor approached the Ambulance crew and advised them of a male lying next to a vehicle in the rear of the townhome. Crews proceeded to the rear where they encountered the male's son performing CPR. The Ambulance crew took over CPR while members of the Engine placed the AED. The remainder of the Engine crew began to investigate the source of the alarms. They were advised that the male was found next to the vehicle with it running and that the son had turned the vehicle off prior to their arrival.

Suspecting possible CO poisoning, the Engine officer requested a full assignment and they began to evacuate the surrounding townhomes. When special services arrived on the scene, it was determined that CO levels throughout the townhome were in the 300-500+ ppm range. Ventilation was immediately begun and levels in the surrounding townhomes were checked as a precaution.

Upon the arrival of Medic 812, cardiac monitoring and other signs of morbidity were used to determine the initiation of the PDOA protocol. Once medical consultation was achieved and the order for DOA was received the ambulance crew terminated CPR. Ventilation of the townhomes was completed and when levels were in the safe range, residents were permitted back into their homes.

Crews returned to service at 1645 hrs.