



City of Mount Pleasant, Michigan
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



PRESS RELEASE

Lieutenant, Michael W. Dunham
Mt. Pleasant Fire Department

Location:

Friends of the Broadway (Broadway Theatre)
216 E. Broadway St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Carbon monoxide leak at Broadway Theatre

Mt. Pleasant, Mich. – On Wednesday, Dec. 2, after multiple people reported similar flu-like symptoms at McLaren Central Michigan, the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department received a call from Isabella County Central Dispatch regarding a possible carbon monoxide release at the Broadway Theatre. We responded to the establishment at 10:04 p.m.

Upon entering the building, we took samples of the atmosphere and recorded 80 parts per million (ppm) of carbon monoxide. According to policy, readings over 70 ppm are considered to be a dangerous level. Two workers were in the building at the time of the testing. The entire building was evacuated and DTE energy was contacted to assist in isolating the cause of the carbon monoxide. We identified a furnace that was not functioning properly and immediately shut the natural gas off to the unit. The unit was Red Tagged by DTE Energy which indicates a defect in the unit.

Once the unit was shut off, the building was ventilated. Additional air samples were obtained and the readings dropped dramatically. At approximately 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3, we met with a service contractor in an attempt to determine the cause of the buildup and to recheck the atmosphere. No levels of carbon monoxide were recorded in the building. The cause of the buildup is still under investigation.

The Friends of the Broadway, along with their heating and cooling contractor, are working diligently to correct the problem in hopes of reopening the theatre in time for this weekend's performances.

For further questions, please contact Lieutenant Michael Dunham of the Mt. Pleasant Fire Department at (989) 779-5123 or mdunham@mt-pleasant.org.

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Protect Your Family from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Safety Tips

- Have your home heating systems (including chimneys and vents) inspected and serviced annually by a trained service technician.
- Never use portable generators inside homes or garages, even if doors and windows are open. Use generators outside only, far away from the home.
- Never bring a charcoal grill into the house for heating or cooking. Do not barbeque in the garage.
- Never use a gas range or oven for heating.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire and keep it open until the ashes are cool. An open damper may help prevent build-up of poisonous gases inside the home.
- Install battery-operated CO alarms or CO alarms with battery backup in your home outside separate sleeping areas.
- Know the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning: headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, sleepiness, and confusion. If you suspect CO poisoning, get outside to fresh air immediately, and then call 911.

The Symptoms of CO Poisoning

Because CO is odorless, colorless, and otherwise undetectable to the human senses, people may not know that they are being exposed. The initial symptoms of low to moderate CO poisoning are similar to the flu (but without the fever). They include:

- Headache
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Dizziness

High level CO poisoning results in progressively more severe symptoms, including:

- Mental confusion
- Vomiting
- Loss of muscular coordination
- Loss of consciousness
- Ultimately death