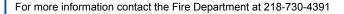


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE City of Duluth Fire Department

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802 218-730-4400 | www.duluthmn.gov | John Strongitharm, Fire Chief





DATE: 04/25/2011

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Annual Community Blight Reduction Program

CASE NO.:

MEETING DATE: 05/01/2011

MEETING TIME: MEETING LOCATION:

SUBJECT: Annual Community Blight Reduction Program

BY: Assistant Chief's Office

The Duluth Fire Department Operations Division will once gain partner with its Life Safety Division to blanket the City of Duluth with an aggressive effort to reduce neighborhood blight and improve quality of life for city residents and visitors.

Beginning Sunday May 1st, fire companies in the Woodland and Gary/New Duluth neighborhoods will begin covering their respective districts inspecting residential private properties for:

- Abandoned, unlicensed vehicles
- Excessive accumulation of junk
- Houses needing excessive maintenance
- Excessive accumulation of solid waste
- Visible house numbers (address)
- Vacant and unsecured buildings
- Overgrown yards
- Dilapidated garages/sheds

The initial inspection process for these two areas will be completed by May 15th. The remainder of the city will be systematically inspected throughout the summer.

The Life Safety Division will collect this information and notices will be sent to property owners for corrections. The Division will continue to work with these identified properties to ensure compliance with applicable city codes.

The individual fire companies will not be moved out of their respective districts to complete this task. They will use this program to further familiarize themselves with the various nuances within our neighborhoods.

If anyone has questions regarding this program, or what constitutes a violation, you can contact the City of Duluth Solid Waste Enforcement at 218-730-5151.