

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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On Monday morning the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) measured elevated levels of fine particulates (PM2.5) as a result of the fire at the old Frigidaire plant located at 300 Taylor Street in downtown Dayton. The fire, which occurred around 6:30 a.m., created a smoke plume that blew through the downtown area. While levels were elevated for a brief time period, RAPCA does not anticipate any ill health effects from the fire.

PM2.5 is a term used to describe fine particles found in the air, including dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. PM2.5 comes from a variety of sources such as cars, trucks, buses, factories, construction sites, tilled fields, unpaved roads, stone crushing, and burning of wood.

PM2.5 is associated with both respiratory-related and cardiovascular effects, exhibiting a broad range of effects. For example, short-term exposures to particulate matter may aggravate asthma and bronchitis and have been associated with heartbeat irregularities and heart attacks.

RAPCA Supervisor John Paul says that “while this fire happened locally, it demonstrates how human activities can affect the quality of our air and it reinforces the need for strong air pollution control regulations on both a local and national level that will collectively keep our air clean and healthy”. RAPCA is a strong proponent for tough national air pollution control regulations as well as locally.

PM2.5 readings at 7am, 8am, 9am and 10am, were 9.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, 27.0 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, 53.8 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, and 10.2 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, respectively. PM2.5 readings below 14.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup> are classified as good air quality readings, readings between 14.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and 40.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup> are moderate, and readings over 40.4 ug/m<sup>3</sup> are considered unhealthy for unusually sensitive individuals.

For further information please visit RAPCA’s website at [www.rapca.org](http://www.rapca.org) or contact Brian Huxtable at (937) 225-5931.

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