

Success Story

Erie County



Chris Collins
County Executive

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Department of Health

Quick and Thoughtful Actions Prevent Tragedy

On March 16, 2009 Michelle Cappellino, an Environmental Health Inspector with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH), met with a property manager to conduct a move-in inspection of a vacant upper apartment. The lower apartment of this dwelling is occupied by a family. Upon entering the residence Michelle's carbon monoxide detector sounded and displayed a reading of 85ppm. Using her cell phone Michelle called 911 and the Buffalo Fire Department was summoned to the address. Occupants of the lower apartment were asked to leave the dwelling, BFD confirmed the high CO level and turned the gas supply off to the furnace and hot water tank and began venting the building. BFD advised that no one should be allowed back in the house until a qualified heating contractor serviced the fuel burning devices.

Michelle acted quickly and appropriately, as per ECDOH CO detection protocols developed during the October Storm, and prevented a potential tragedy from occurring. The ECDOH, and our entire community, are fortunate to have caring and dedicated staff protecting the health and safety of Erie County residents and visitors.

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