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For Immediate Release

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Parma Heights: City is First to Curb Diesel Emissions on Ambulances

May 13, 2009 –PARMA HTS -- The city took a big step to decrease emissions and help the environment, but their efforts should have a more human impact than that.

With a \$5,000 award from the [Ohio Environmental Council](#), Parma Heights cleaned up two city ambulances with top of the line emission control devices. The pollution controls are expected to reduce harmful tailpipe pollution by 40 percent and eliminate 100 percent of in-cabin emissions. This will help paramedics as well as patients, and some patients desperately needed this improvement.

Toni Temple, founder and president of the [Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured](#) and a Parma Heights resident, became disabled by Multiple Chemical Sensitivity in her 40s after an over-exposure to a dangerous chemical. If she went to a hospital she would have severe allergic reactions to the cleaning products used and equipment. It was so bad she would have to be taken outside. After several of these experiences she wrote a book, "[Healthier Hospitals](#)" which explained in detail how each area of the hospital could be improved to help other sufferers of MCS.

Later in life she grew an intense sensitivity to diesel fumes. She said, "Diesel is a horrendous nightmare for me. It affects my vascular system."

One day she had a serious reaction to something in her mail that had perfume. She said her reaction was much worse than it usually was, so she called 9-1-1. She said the paramedics wouldn't turn off the truck before loading her in and she had a severe reaction to the diesel fumes which she said eventually led her to a stroke.

After these incidents she formed a support group that eventually became The Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured. She heard that Ohio Environmental Council had a way of fixing school buses so they emitted less pollution including diesel fumes. Soon, she worked with David Celebreeze from the OEC and Parma Heights to get the ambulances fixed as well.

Now Parma Heights has already retrofitted two ambulances and will soon retrofit nine service department vehicles with diesel particulate filters and other pollution control technologies.

Celebreeze said according to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 40 toxins including known and probable carcinogens are found in diesel exhaust.

He said, "These ambulances represent the first ambulances in the state to be retrofitted with pollution control devices that are going to reduce that harmful smell by 40 percent. The diesel oxidation catalyst (DOC) will take care of the tail pipe emissions and the closed crankcase ventilation system (CCVS) will take care of the in-cabin emissions.

"The city has demonstrated that public health is a top priority for them. Other cities should take a page out of their book and develop strong no idle policies and look for grant opportunities to retrofit their diesel vehicles."



Two ambulances in Parma Heights will emit 40 percent less pollution and other city vehicles are soon to follow. From left, Dana Brewster of Engine Control Systems, David Celebreeze of the Ohio Environmental Council, Joe Norgrove of Power City International, state Sen. Dale Miller, Andrew Skeen of the Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured, Joe Sebes, human services director for Parma Heights, Mayor Martin Zanotti and Fire Chief Bryan Sloan were excited for Parma Heights residents.

The next step is up to state Sens. [Dale Miller](#) (D-23, Cleveland) and [Kevin Coughlin](#) (R-27, Cuyahoga Falls). They are co-sponsoring a bill to permanently designate May as "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month" in Ohio.

"I would like to commend the city of Parma Heights for its leadership in doing the first diesel retrofit on an ambulance in the state of Ohio and also for their collaborative effort with the Ohio Environmental Council. More and more success in public policy requires collaboration between different interested parties. This is an effort that has multiple benefits," Miller said.

While they try to make it official, the Cuyahoga County Public Library's Parma Heights branch will host several programs to raise awareness in May about MCS.

"Green Meetings" will be held with guest speakers at 7 p.m. May 6, May 13 and May 21. Speakers will include Theodore J. Esborn, an environmental attorney and co-producer of the PBS documentary, "[The Return of the Cuyahoga](#)." Jeff Heinen, co-owner of Heinen's Fine Foods will talk about "Eating Green" and food safety. The [Green Building Coalition](#) will share tips on greening homes.

For more information on MCS visit the Web site at ohionetwork.org. For more information on retrofitting vehicles call (614) 487-7506, Ext. 115. For more information and to register for the library's "Green Meetings" call (440) 884-2313.

To link to the Parma Heights news release, please click here:

http://blog.cleveland.com/parmasunpost/2009/05/parma_heights_city_is_first_to.html

About Engine Control Systems:

ECS is a leading supplier of emissions control products to regulated and unregulated markets in North America, the European Union, and developing countries. Many of the ECS products have verifications issued under various programs established by the United States EPA, California Air Resources Board, Sweden Environmental Zones, Swiss VERT, UK Energy Savings Trust and other governmental agencies around the world.

About Catalytic Solutions, Inc.:

Catalytic Solutions is a global manufacturer and distributor of emissions control systems and products, focused in the Heavy Duty Diesel (HDD), Energy Systems and Light Duty Vehicle (LDV) markets. Catalytic Solutions' emissions control systems and products are designed to deliver high value to our customers while benefiting the global environment through air quality improvement, sustainability and energy efficiency. For information on Catalytic Solutions or this release, visit them on their website at: <http://www.catalyticsolutions.com>

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