



# PRESS RELEASE

## Darien-Woodridge Fire District

7550 Lyman Ave  
Darien, IL 60561



### Contact Information:

Chief Wayne Messenger 630-910-2200  
Fire Prevention Director Robert Morris 630-910-2207

Date: March 31, 2008

### *For Immediate Release*

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## Smoke Detectors Alert Family to Fire

At approximately 7:29 AM, on March 30, the occupants of a home at 8175 Chapman Court, Darien, awoke to the sound of a smoke detector going off. In investigating, one occupant opened the door to the basement and found smoke coming up the stairs. The four members of the family evacuated, and the fire department was called.

Fire units arrived six minutes later. They found the fire contained to a plastic garbage can, and quickly extinguished it. No one was injured, and the fire damage, mostly smoke, was estimated at \$5,000.

An investigation revealed that the occupants were refinishing a table in the basement the night before, and had discarded linseed oiled rags into the garbage can. The rags later spontaneously ignited.

Oily rags have a tendency to self ignite when placed in a pile. When working with oils, stains, and the like, it is best to store them in a metal can, with a lid, preferably outside your home.

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of having working smoke detectors. Without them, this fire could have been much worse. Any detector batteries should be changed every six months, when the time changes.

We also need to stress the importance of immediately calling the fire department. As soon as there is *any* indication of a fire, calling 9-1-1 is the only way to get help started to your home.

If you need assistance in where to locate smoke or carbon monoxide detectors, or would like a free home safety survey, contact your local fire department.

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