



DARIEN-WOODRIDGE

Fire Protection District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 27, 2007

The Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District would like to invite everyone to its annual Open House on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Please join us at our Station #1, located at 7550 Lyman Avenue in Darien (near Walmart).

Open House activities include: station tours, fire engine and ambulance displays, fire extinguisher displays, Good Samaritan Hospital will be fitting children for bike helmets, blood pressure checks, give-a-ways for everyone, and refreshments.

Fire Prevention Week is always held in October, as a memorial to The Great Chicago Fire of 1871. The fire was reported at approximately 9:00 PM on October 8 and burned nonstop until October 10. The fire started in the O'Leary barn, which is now the site of the Chicago Fire Academy, at 558 W DeKoven. When the fire was out, it is estimated that approximately 300 people were killed, 17,500 buildings burned at a value of \$222 million, and the fire covered 2,000 acres of the City.

Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Practice Your Escape Plan.' During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of home fires and teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs.

Are you prepared for a fire? Although it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire is strongly recommended... and don't forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week!

- Install working smoke alarms on every level; and inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.
- Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.
- Practice using the plan, at least twice a year.
- Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.
- If the smoke alarm sounds: Go to your closest exit, and if you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings; just get out and help others get out. Move fast but stay calm.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

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