



**For Immediate Release:** 05.31.05

From: David Powers  
Communications Director  
708.358.5781

Contact: William Bell  
Fire Chief  
708.358.5603

### **Fire Department Names New Deputy Chief**

A second generation Oak Park firefighter has been named the new Deputy Chief of Operations. Tom Ebsen has been promoted to fill the post left open when William Bell became Fire Chief in December.

Deputy Fire Chief Ebsen has been with the Oak Park Fire Department for 25 years, the last 11 as Battalion Chief of the Fire Prevention Bureau. His father spent 23 years with the department, retiring as a captain in 1972.

"I am pleased that we were able to fill this important position with a firefighter with so much experience and from the department's own ranks," said Village Manager Carl Swenson.

Fire Chief Bell said Ebsen's promotion is an indication of the high caliber of individuals providing important emergency services to the community.

"The Oak Park Fire Department is among the best trained and equipped in the region," Bell said. "Tom Ebsen has contributed greatly to helping the department prepare for and adapt to the changes that have been a part of evolution of the role of firefighter. He was an ideal candidate to assume these added duties."

The Deputy Chief of Operations' primary functions are to oversee and supervise all three work shifts. In addition, Ebsen will oversee apparatus selection and maintenance as well as administrative duties such as performance reviews, sick leave and injuries.

"This will be a big change from my previous role, but I welcome the return to the operations division," Ebsen said. "My experience during the past 25 years has helped prepare me for this great opportunity."

Ebsen was born and raised in Oak Park. He attended then Emerson Elementary School and graduated from Oak Park and River Forest High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Elmhurst College.

For more information on Oak Park Fire Department staffing and operations, call 445.3300 or email [fire@oak-park.us](mailto:fire@oak-park.us).

###