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New Oxygen Masks Fitted for Pets

Pets and their owners may be breathing easier thanks to a recent purchase by the Oak Park Fire Department.

The department has joined a host of other fire departments in the Chicago Metropolitan area that now have oxygen masks intended for use with animals in respiratory distress.

"Pets are at risk of injury and death from smoke inhalation just as people are, but human oxygen masks don't fit properly on animals," said Deputy Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis. "Most people consider their pets part of the family. It is important for firefighters to be equipped to save them, too."

The Fire Department purchased three kits for \$75 each via a matching grant program through a Chicago pet store. Each kit contains one feline mask, one small canine mask and one large canine mask. The kits will be placed on the command vehicle, which responds to every emergency call.

For more information on fire safety, call the Fire Department at 445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

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