



**For Immediate Release:** 04.12.06

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### **Grenade Incident Prompts Police Warning**

When a well meaning resident brought a World War II era hand grenade to Village Hall late Tuesday morning, the intent was clear – hand over a potential hazard to the professionals who will know what to do.

Even though the Cook County bomb squad quickly determined the "pineapple" grenade was unarmed, police say such good intentions could have proven tragic had the grenade been real, rather than an unarmed souvenir the resident's elderly relative had kept tucked away for decades.

"Anytime anyone finds any kind of potentially explosive device the best thing to do is leave it alone and call the police," said Oak Park Police Chief Rick C. Tanksley. "Transporting such a device or even moving it could be risky. Old explosives can be unstable and unpredictable. And that means dangerous."

Tanksley said the same rule goes for firearms as well. Anyone who finds a firearm should leave it alone and immediately call police, he said.

Oak Park Police officers knew what to do when the resident came to Village Hall with the grenade. They immediately placed the grenade in a large, dirt-filled planter outside, evacuated the building and called in the Cook County bomb squad, which quickly determined the device was harmless.

"We can laugh about it now. Village staff got an unexpected 20-minute break on a warm spring morning and police had an unplanned drill," Tanksley said. "But the potential danger was real – especially for the resident who transported the device. It is important for anyone who finds himself or herself in such a situation to recognize the potential danger and call police immediately."

Tanksley said the chances of another resident coming upon such a military souvenir is relatively high, given that soldiers have been bringing home such items for as long as wars have been fought. But as time passes, the original collector may have died or moved on without leaving any information behind on their wartime souvenirs – and that could place someone in a situation similar to the one at Village Hall Tuesday.

"Anyone who comes upon something of this kind should immediately call 9-1-1 and let police decide the best course of action," Tanksley said. "Why take a chance? The outcome could be unnecessarily tragic."

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