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Fire Department to host open house

An open house marking the beginning of [Fire Prevention Week](#) is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sat., Oct. 4 at the Main Fire Station, 100 N. Euclid Ave.

Residents are invited to participate in a range of family-friendly activities, such as demonstrations of how to use a fire extinguisher, how to escape from a fire and how to dial 9-1-1 in the case of an emergency. Station tours and demonstrations are planned, as are prizes and hot dogs. Children also will be allowed to explore the fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles.

The Division XI Fire Safety House, the Northern Illinois Fire Sprinkler Trailer and the Nicor Gas Safety Exhibit will be on site, along with information booths from Oak Park Police and Health departments.

This year, Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 5 – 11. The theme is *Prevent Home Fires*. During the week, fire safety advocates will be spreading the word that, with a little extra caution, individuals can help prevent tragedies from the leading causes of home fires – cooking, heating, electrical and smoking materials.

Fire Prevention Week commemorates one of the worst fires in American history, the Chicago Fire of 1871, which claimed more than 250 lives and destroyed more than 17,400 buildings.

Since 1925, when President Calvin Coolidge first declared Fire Prevention Week an official national observance, the week containing the October 9 Chicago fire anniversary has been the focus of an annual fire safety awareness campaign sponsored by the [National Fire Protection Association](#).

In addition to the open house, the Oak Park Fire Department also is sponsoring a poster design/essay contest for all elementary school children in the Village. Winners will receive prizes and certificates of merit from the Fire Department, and join their immediate families as guests at a dinner ceremony scheduled for Oct. 8 at the Main Fire Station.

For more information on the open house or Fire Prevention Week, call the Oak Park Fire Department at 708.445.3300 or email fire@oak-park.us.

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