

Oct. 1, 2007

## Sound the alarm for Fire Prevention Week Open House

The Fire Prevention Week Open House, sponsored by the Sarasota County Fire Department, will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, at Fire Station #5, 400 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota.

The fire department holds this free annual open house to educate the public on fire safety as part of national Fire Prevention Week which runs from Oct. 7-13. Stop by and visit the many public safety displays. Many live fire and safety demonstrations will be held throughout the day. Gus, Goldie, Sparky the Fire Dog, Reddy Fox, and Terry Telephone will be on hand to talk to children. Free beverages and refreshments will be available.

“Practice Your Escape Plan,” is the theme selected by the National Fire Prevention Association for this year’s Fire Prevention Week. This week of recognition was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

“It is not enough to have a home fire escape plan. To escape safely, everyone in the home needs to practice this plan,” said Sarasota County Fire Chief Brian Gorski. “The majority of families that have a fire escape plan never practice it on a regular basis. A fire can turn deadly in a matter of seconds, so a well practiced plan is important in helping to protect people.”

For more information regarding the open house, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000.