



TEMPLE TERRACE FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Two pages)

FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOST ANNUAL 'OPEN HOUSE'

(TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – 9/12/07) – The Temple Terrace Fire Department will hold its annual *Fire Prevention Open House* on Saturday, Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The free event will be at Fire Station No. 1, 124 Bullard Parkway.

The event kicks off National Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, 2007. Last year, the event drew nearly 4,000 people when it was held in conjunction with *Temple Terrace Reads*, a youth literacy festival held next door, in front of Temple Terrace Elementary School. The literacy festival will be held again this year.

The fire department's "Open House" focuses on fire prevention and safety, but it's also a lot of fun. There will be interactive exhibits and plenty of firefighting equipment on hand, including ladder trucks, pumpers, rescue vehicles and a medical helicopter.

"Kids love firetrucks, and this is a chance for them to climb on board and really get a close-up look at them," said Temple Terrace Division Chief Dave Becker.

Youngsters will experience what it's like to be a firefighter, putting out simulated house fires with water hoses. They'll save a barn from burning down at Old McBecker's Farm. They'll learn how to safely escape a smoke-filled room.

A car will be set on fire around noon, and firefighters will jump into action. Smokey Bear will be on hand, too, and there will be clowns, puppet shows and other entertainment. Hot dogs, sodas and chips will be sold at reasonable prices.

The theme of this year's National Fire Prevention Week is "Practice Your Escape Plan!" Every homeowner should have a fire escape plan, Becker said, and everyone in the family should know it – and practice it.

"Kitchen fires are the No. 1 cause of residential fires," he said. "We're trying to stress that to the average homeowner. Our main purpose for this event is to stress home safety."

Becker said the fire department's "Open House" has become increasingly popular. It's a great day for families to have fun together, while learning about safety.

"It's educational, it's fun and it's free," he said.

Participating agencies include the Temple Terrace Fire Department, Temple Terrace Police Department, Plant City Fire Department, Tampa Fire Rescue, Hillsborough County Fire Department and the Florida Division of Forestry.

Sponsors include TECO, Publix Supermarkets, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Outback Steakhouse, the Coca-Cola Bottling Co., Alday-Donalson Title Agency and Florida Orthopaedic Institute.

For more information, contact the Temple Terrace Fire Department at (813) 989-7121.

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