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Fire Prevention Open House offers free family fun

The entire family will have a fun-filled day at the annual Fire Prevention Open House sponsored by Sarasota County Emergency Services.

The open house will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at Fire Station 5, 400 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota. All activities and refreshments are free.

The event features public safety displays, with live fire and safety demonstrations throughout the day. Children's favorites Red E. Fox and Terry Telephone will greet visitors and offer fire safety education.

This year's theme is "Smoke Alarms: A sound you can live with." "Smoke alarms save lives, but you need to make sure they are working," said Sarasota County Fire Marshal Jane Ross.

Ross also offered these smoke alarm safety tips:

- Check smoke alarms every month to make sure they are working.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries twice a year when you change your clocks.
- If a smoke alarm makes a chirping sound, replace the battery.
- Smoke alarms should be on every level of a home. Place an alarm in or near every sleeping area.
- Plan regular fire drills and set off the smoke alarm so everyone knows what to do when they hear the alarm.
- Have a home escape plan. Draw a floor plan or map of your home and make sure everyone knows how to get out of the home in case of fire, and establish a safe place to meet outside the home.
- If there is someone in the home with special needs, make sure to consider them in a home escape plan.

For additional information regarding the Open House, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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