



Fire Prevention Day 2014

The **Chatham Township Volunteer Fire Department** will be hosting a
Fire Prevention Open House

Saturday, October 11th, from 12 noon to 3 p.m.
at **Fire Headquarters on River Road**

The firefighters invite you and your family to a fun filled and educational afternoon.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and water will be provided.

Tour our fire house and see our apparatus.

Firefighters will be on hand to answer questions, provide fire prevention literature, and show off their firefighting equipment and fire vehicles.

Children will have an opportunity to use a fire hose from one of the fire engines.

Guests will be able to purchase smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers.

Old fire extinguishers may also be disposed of at the firehouse.

Fire hats will be available for the children.

See you Saturday! Oct 11th.

**“Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives:
Test Yours Monthly”**

Chatham Township Fire Department encourages all families to visit their respective Fire Departments during Fire Prevention week.

Smoke alarms Op/ed

by Chief Robert Evans

When was the last time you tested the smoke alarms in your home? Was it last week? Last month? A year ago?

If you're like many people, you may not even remember. Smoke alarms have become such a common feature of U.S. households that they're often taken for granted, and aren't tested and maintained as they should.

However, working smoke alarms are a critical fire safety tool that can mean the difference between life and death in a home fire. According to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), smoke alarms can cut the chance of dying in a home fire in half. Meanwhile, NFPA data shows that home fires killed more than 2,300 people in 2012; many of these deaths could have been prevented with the proper smoke alarm protection.

As a member of the fire service for 40 years, I've seen the devastating effects of fire first-hand; the burn injuries, the loss of homes and possessions are distressing. What's even worse is witnessing a family's anguish after a loved one has been killed in a fire. It's heartbreaking.

As the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week, October 5-11, 2014, NFPA is promoting "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" to better educate the public about the true value of working smoke alarms. In support of these efforts, Chatham Township Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on Saturday October 11, 2014 (12 pm to 3 pm) at our fire headquarters on River Road. Green Village Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on Sunday October 5, 2014 (1 pm to 3 pm) at their firehouse on Green Village Road.

My sincere hope is that all Chatham Township residents participate in our, or Green Village Fire Department's, Fire Prevention Week activities, and make sure there are working smoke alarms installed throughout their homes. These simple steps can help make a life-saving difference, and prevent the potentially life-threatening impact of fire.

Here are additional smoke alarm tips to follow:

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- Interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test alarms each month by pushing the test button.
- Replace all smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and hard-wired alarms, when they are 10 years old or sooner if they do not respond properly.
- Make sure everyone in the home knows the sound and understands what to do when they hear the smoke alarm.

To learn more about the "Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives: Test Yours Every Month!" campaign; visit NFPA's Web site at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Chief Evans
Chatham Township Fire Department

This year's Fire Prevention theme is:

**“Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives:
Test Yours Monthly”**