



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULED OCTOBER 8

Cooking Safety is the theme for 2023 Fire Prevention Week October 8-14

MUSCATINE, Iowa – The 2023 Public Safety Open House, always a popular event in Muscatine, will kick off Fire Prevention Week as the Muscatine Fire Department, Muscatine Police Department, and the Muscatine Sheriff's Department join forces to host the event from 12-3 p.m., on Sunday, October 8, inside and around the Public Safety Building, 312 East 5th Street.

The Open House is a golden opportunity for residents, and visitors, young and old to visit the Public Safety Building for an enjoyable learning experience that includes demonstrations, discussions, and games. Visitors will be able to meet and interact with Public Safety staff, and learn a little bit more about what they do and the equipment they use.





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Visitors will also be able explore various fire and emergency apparatus inside the Central Fire Station, and visit a variety of booths to learn more about the Explorers Program and how Hands Only CPR could save a life. A smoke house will be located in the alley behind the fire station that teaches children how to safely exit a house in a smoke-filled atmosphere, and a mini smoke house that will demonstrate how smoke flows.

The Fire Department also plans to have a recruitment booth with video and handouts for fire pits and fire safety, a gear demonstration booth, and a photo booth with Freddie the Fire Truck. Also, inside the station will be games for the children including a hose trace where children are blindfolded and have to follow the hose like a firefighter would to exit a building.

A vehicle extrication demonstration will show how the jaws, cutters, spreaders, rams, etc., are used to extricate victims from automobile accidents. A demonstration of the aerial tower truck, and a demonstration on how to use a fire hose to shoot water into a house will also be featured.

The Muscatine Police Department is planning a variety of static displays of a squad car, armored vehicle, and tactical equipment. Children will not want to miss an opportunity to meet Muscatine's K-9 officers and learn about the work they do, and parents will not want to miss the opportunity to visit the drug trailer and see some of the warning signs of drug use. You may also want to give the drunk goggles a try.

The Iowa State Police will have a seatbelt impact trailer on hand that is designed to simulate how a seatbelt can save your life. The Muscatine Police Tactical Team also plans to demonstrations with the Muscatine Police robot. There will also be games where children can earn prizes.

The Muscatine County Sheriff's Department will also have their K-9 officer on hand as well as static displays of squad cars, boats, and other related items in the alley parking lot.



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About Fire Prevention Week

Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9th in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

To find out more about FPW programs and activities in Muscatine, please contact the Muscatine Fire Department at 563-263-9233. For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.

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