

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**COLUMBUS FIRE HOLDS OPEN HOUSES IN HONOR OF  
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK**

[COLUMBUS – OH] October 6-12, 2013 is National Fire Prevention Week and the theme is “Preventing Kitchen Fires.” The Columbus Division of Fire is sponsoring open houses at all Columbus Fire Stations on Saturday, October 12, 2012 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

“It’s an opportunity to reintroduce ourselves to the community we serve,” said Columbus Division of Fire Chief Gregory Paxton. “It’s a pleasure to meet residents and conduct a conversation when they are not in distress.”

Residents are encouraged to visit their neighborhood fire station, bring their fire escape plans and safety questions. Firefighters will be available to conduct station tours and offer fire prevention tips. Handouts will include fire safety information for children and adults.

Fire Prevention Week is observed annually in the United States and Canada to promote fire safety awareness. This week always commemorates the anniversary of “The Great Chicago Fire of 1871” that killed 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2000 acres in 27 hours.

The Division of Fire’s Community Relations Office offers literature on home fire escape plans, smoke detectors and other fire safety information. For pamphlets, information or to schedule a free fire home inspection, residents can call 614-645-7377.

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