**Educational Programs**

The Decatur Fire Department provides various life and fire safety programs for residents of all ages. Our busiest time of the year for such programming is National Fire Prevention Week during the month of October. Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week is always the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9th falls. That date is directly related to the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

The Decatur Fire Department designates Fire Prevention Week plus the following week to formally welcome school groups to Station #1 for special, concentrated, fire safety presentations. Activities during this time include: Station tours; Gear demonstrations: Puppet shows; A water shoot; A junior fire pole slide; A photo op meet and greet with “Sparky the Firedog;” A fire safety magic show; “The Fire Safety House Experience; ” And a chance to slide down a 19 foot firetruck inflatable slide.

DFD is also proud to partner with our local elementary schools in providing a 40 minute fire safety assembly for young students. Our aim is to present the assembly at least every other year to all elementary schools in Decatur. After the assembly, Kindergarten and 1st Grade students are invited to participate in a simulated home fire escape through “The Fire Safety House Experience.” Students also get to meet some real life heroes as the crew from their local fire station stops by for a show and tell of their fire engine and equipment.

Our educational programming starts at the pre-school level. Many of our Decatur pre-schools invite us to their campuses for programming designed specifically for these young minds. A short puppet show featuring “Rodney the Rabbit”, some magic tricks and a gear demonstration make up our traveling display for these young learners.

On the opposite end of the age bracket, DFD is proud to present a senior fire and fall prevention program titled “Remembering When.” This program features “Hotshot the Fire Safety Clown” along with Deputy Chief Meador. This entertaining program presents 8 fire safety and 8 fall prevention tips for seniors aged 65 and older.

Lastly, the Decatur Fire Department will gladly provide a speaker or program for any community organization or group. Presentations can be a general fire and life safety presentation or customized to meet specific needs and/or criteria.

For more information or to schedule a presentation for any of these programs please contact the Fire Prevention Division at (217) 424-2813.