

COOKING FIRE SAFETY

WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT

Cooking equipment, most often a range or stovetop is the leading cause of reported home fires and fire injuries. Practicing safe cooking behaviors can keep you and your family safe and prevent fires.

Watch What You Heat

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Stay in kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn the stove off.
- Stay Alert! To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert. Never cook if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol or taking medicine that makes you drowsy.

Keep Things That Can Catch Fire and Heat Sources Away

- Keep anything that can catch fire—potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains—away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners and oven clean.

Protect Children From Burns

- Keep children away from cooking areas by establishing a “kid free zone” of 3 feet around the stove.
- When young children are present, use the stove’s back burners when possible.
- Never hold a child while cooking.

How and When to Extinguish Cooking Fires

- Keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire occurs in the pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan and then turning the burner off. Do not remove the pan until completely cool.
- In event of oven fire, leave door closed and turn off oven.
- In event of microwave fire, leave door closed and unplug oven.
- When in doubt, just get out, close door behind you and dial 9-1-1.

Outside cooking safety tips:

- Use BBQ grills away from siding and out away from under ceilings or eaves.
- Use grills outdoors only!
- Ensure that children do not play near or around any grill.
- Use long handled utensils to allow plenty of clearance from heat or flames when cooking.
- When using a propane grill, if you smell gas while cooking, immediately turn the grill and gas off and have it checked.
- Check the propane cylinder and hoses for leaks before using it the first time each year or after extended periods of time when it the grill has not been used.