

FACTS ABOUT KITCHEN FIRES

It is often said that the heart of the home is in the kitchen, so it should come as no surprise that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA®) reports that three in ten home fires start in the kitchen, more than any other room in the house.

Considered to be one of the more preventable types of fires, kitchen fires can be avoided by following a few common sense guidelines and remembering the same lessons adults teach their children: be careful when working around a stove as hot items can cause serious injury and even death.

These and other statistics from several leading sources on fire safety are highlighted below:

Kitchen Fire Facts

- Between 1999-2002, there were 114,000 reported home fires associated with cooking equipment on average per year, resulting in an annual 290 deaths and 4,380 injuries. *(National Fire Protection Association)*
- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home-cooking fires. *(National Fire Protection Association)*
- Three in ten reported home fires start in the kitchen - more than any other place in the home.
- Two out of three reported home-cooking fires start with the range or stove. *(National Fire Protection Association)*
- Electric ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fires, injuries and property damage, compared to gas ranges or stoves, but gas ranges or stoves have a higher risk of fire deaths. *(National Fire Protection Association)*
- Cooking fires are the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. *(National Fire Protection Association)*
- Deaths due to fires caused by cooking are particularly preventable. *(U.S. Fire Administration)*

Tips for Staying Safe in the Kitchen

- An adult should always be present when a child is preparing any food.
- Designate a three-foot area in front of the stove where children are not allowed. Cut out strips of paper and tape them to the floor to help your child visualize the safety area.
- Turn all pots and pans inward to keep them out of reach from small children.
- Keep flammable objects (kitchen towels, cookbooks and curtains) at least three feet from the stove top.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy but do not mount behind the stove. You don't want to have to reach through a fire to get it.

- Do not leave cooked food on top of the stove at any time. Pets can jump up and inadvertently turn a burner on with their paws.
- Keep an eye on food that is cooking. This includes microwaves where an incorrect amount of cooking time can lead to sparks or fire. (Think of a bag of popcorn that's cooked too long.)
- Douse cigarette or cigar butts with water before dumping in trash.
- Clean cooking surfaces regularly to prevent grease buildup. Built up waste can later ignite.
- Wear appropriate clothing while cooking. Clothing should be formfitting to avoid cloth coming in contact with a flame or burner. Also, tie back any loose hair.
- Do not store food in the oven. It is easy to forget that there is an item in the oven when preheating.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Every kitchen should have at least one working fire extinguisher or fire suppressant within easy reach. Always call 911 before attempting to put out a fire and make sure everyone else has exited the house.
- Never use a kitchen oven range to heat your home. It is not only a fire hazard, but it can also give off toxic fumes.

**To learn more about protecting your family from smoke and fire, visit
www.firstalert.com.**

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