



News Release

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For Release: IMMEDIATE

HOLIDAY COOKING SAFETY

(SUNRISE, FL)- For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. The kitchen is also where most fires start in the home, so being mindful of kitchen fire safety is especially important with a lot of people visiting and activity taking place during this season. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Analysis & Research Division further emphasizes the point with the following data:

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- In 2014, nearly four times as many home cooking fires occur on Thanksgiving as on a typical day.
- In 2014, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,730 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking equipment was involved in almost half (48%) of all reported home fires and civilian and tied with heating equipment for the second leading cause of home fire deaths.

As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, you can keep yourself and your family safer from fire by following the following **safety tips**:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Finally, it's worth noting that the NFPA discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers which immerse the turkey in hot oil. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and there is a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process, which could then be ignited by the burners. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants, for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer.

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