



FIRE DEPARTMENT

KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY

You can stop a tragedy before it occurs by remembering to prepare, prevent, and react!

Prepare

Remember that your stove, oven, and microwave are appliances that either produce heat or heat items and have the capability of burning things to the point of starting a fire. With this in mind, prepare yourself so that if a problem should occur, you are ready to face it.

1. Get a fire extinguisher, learn how to use it, and store in an easily accessible location.
2. Talk to your children about safety in the kitchen. Point out that the kitchen is a dangerous place and is not a place to play. Also, tell them that they should not cook unless an adult is in the kitchen with them. Speak with them about the rest of the safety tips in this handout.



Prevent

There are many things you can do to prevent a fire from happening. Here are a few tips:

1. Clean grease and food from your stove after each use. Remember that this also includes the fan above your stove. Grease buildup is a common cause of fires in the kitchen.
2. Turn pot handles in toward the center of the stove when cooking. Often, children suffer burns because they pull a pot handle and dump the scalding contents on themselves. Put those handles out of reach!
3. Never wear clothes with long and/or loose fitting sleeves while cooking. Loose sleeves too close to a burner may accidentally catch fire and burn you.
4. Never cook while holding a child in your arms. Cooking requires your **full** attention. If you need to have your children in the kitchen while you cook, seat them away from the cooking area.
5. Never leave your kitchen while cooking. Turning your back on your cooking **even for a minute**, can and often does have tragic results. If you do need to leave your kitchen to help a child, or answer the door or phone, turn the stove **off**.
6. Don't use stove tops or ovens for storage.



React

If a fire does start in your kitchen, how you react can make the difference between replacing a pan and replacing your home. Here are some tips:

Stove Top Fires

1. Turn off the burner.
2. Cover the pot or pan with its lid. Slide the lid across the pan from the left or right.
3. **NEVER USE WATER ON A GREASE FIRE.** It will only spread the fire, making matters worse. A better choice would be to use a fire extinguisher.
4. If the fire has spread to the cabinets or counter top, exit the house and call 911. *Do not go back into the house for any reason.*

Oven Fires

1. **DO NOT OPEN THE OVEN!** Keep the door closed so the fire doesn't spread.
2. Turn off the heat to the oven.
3. Exit the house and call 911.

Microwave Oven Fires

1. Don't cook anything in a container made with metal. It's a good idea to only use containers labeled as "Microwave Safe."
2. Leave the microwave closed.
3. Call 911.

