



News Release

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Contact: Kristy Bansemer
788-1519/393-8549

2020 Fire Prevention Week: Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen

Derby, Kansas – Derby Fire & Rescue is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®), the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 90 years, to promote this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!” The campaign goal is to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the U.S. Almost half (44 percent) of reported home fires started in the kitchen. Two-thirds of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.

“The most important step you should take before making a meal is to think about fire safety in the kitchen,” said John Turner, Fire Chief. “A cooking fire can grow quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented.”

Here are a few safety tips:

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen while you are using the stove top. If you have to leave, even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you are using the stove top, check food regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer.
- Be alert when cooking. Avoid taking medicine that makes you drowsy or drinking alcohol.
- Keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when cooking. If a grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Have a “kid-free zone” of at least three feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared. You can mark the floor so your kids know the safe area.

For more general information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking fire prevention, visit www.fpw.org.

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