



Tulsa Fire Department

Protecting Community Life, Health, Property and the Environment
By Delivering Quality Life and Fire Safety Services.

Community Relations / Public Education Branch

616 S. 73rd E. Ave. Tulsa, Oklahoma 74112
918-669-6186

Cooking Fire Safety

Cooking fires are the number one cause of residential fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Nearly all cooking equipment fires start with the ignition of food, other cooking materials (e.g., grease, cooking oil), or other items normally found or installed in a kitchen (e.g., cabinets, wall coverings, paper or plastic bags, curtains). Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires.

In 2005, U.S. fire departments responded to 146,400 home structure fires that involved cooking equipment in 2005. These fires caused 480 civilian fire deaths, 4,690 civilian fire injuries and \$876 million in direct property damage. The Tulsa Fire Department offers the following life-saving tips that could make a big difference to you and increase your survival rate dramatically.

Cooking Fire Life-Saving Tips

- Never leave cooking unattended. A serious fire can start in just seconds
- If you must leave what you're cooking turn off the burner. If you choose not to turn off what you're cooking take a utensil or oven mitt with you to remind you.
- Never wear loose fitting clothes while cooking especially loose fitting sleeves
- If a fire breaks out while cooking, put a lid on the pan to smother it. Keep the lid beside what you're cooking
- Never throw water on a grease fire
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from splattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods
- Never use the range or oven to heat your home
- Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- Use an oven mitt with arm protection to handle pots. Never use a towel near burners

Did You Know?

- Eighty-two percent of all fire deaths occur in the home
- The leading cause of cooking related fires is unattended cooking.
- One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen - more than any other place in the home.
- A study published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission found that 75% of range or stove fires started with food ignitions
- For more information on how you can help prevent fire deaths, please contact The Tulsa Fire Departments Community Relations / Public Education Branch @ 669-6186