

RICHMOND FIRE
THE FUTURE

Fire and Life Safety Bulletin

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Thanksgiving Safety

For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. So keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time is important. In 2013, Thanksgiving Day was the leading date for home cooking fires with 230% above the average number of fires per day. Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths. Overall, cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries and was the third leading cause of fire deaths. As you start preparing your holiday schedule, remember by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safer from fire.



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. Establish a 3 foot "kid free" zone.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids such as gravy or coffee.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working properly.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife are not dangling off the counter within reach of a child.

NFPA Discourages the Use of Outdoor Gas-Fueled Turkey Fryers



The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the Richmond Fire Department continue to believe that fryers that use cooking oil, as currently designed are not suitable for safe use by even a well-informed and careful consumer. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. In addition, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. 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.

Oil-Less Turkey Fryer



Finding a fryer that does not need oil takes away the concern of burning yourself with hot oil or having a big mess on your hands when you have to clean the fryer and get rid of all of the hot oil. Some units are double wall heating chambers that allows your food to be cooked thoroughly from inside out. It prevents flare ups and eliminates hot and cold spots within your food. The units have fully enclosed propane or electric powered burner and removable grease tray that prevents grease from falling and making a mess.



Remember!! Always supervise children when they are using a microwave oven. Use only microwave safe food containers or dishes. Never use aluminum foil or metal in a microwave. Open food slowly, away from your face. Hot steam or the food itself can cause burns. Food heats unevenly in microwave ovens. Stir and test before eating or giving to children. If you have a fire in the microwave, leave the door closed, turn the oven off and unplug it from the receptacle. If the fire does not go out, get outside the house and call the fire department.

Please visit our website at www.RFDGOV.com for more safety tips.

Portable Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Extinguisher Safety Tips:

- Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket and is not growing; everyone should be exiting the building, the fire department has been called and the room is not filled with smoke.
- To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word **PASS**:
 - **P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.
 - **A**im low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - **S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.
- For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.
- Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory (UL or FM).
- Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.
- Install fire extinguishers close to an exit. Keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire can't be controlled.
- Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but remember the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.



Sleepover Checklist

Before you permit your child to sleepover with a friend, talk to the child's parents. Depending on what you learn, it can either uncover serious fire dangers or give you peace of mind during your child's sleepover.



Before you say "yes".....

- How well do you know the home?
- Is the home clean?
- Is the home in a safe area?
- If the home has security bars on doors and windows, do you know for certain that the bars have quick release devices inside?

How well do you know the parent(s)?

- Are they mature, responsible & conscientious?
- Will they supervise the children throughout the stay?
- Are they cautious with smoking materials, matches

Ask the parents.....

- Are there working smoke alarms on every level, inside and outside each sleeping area?
- Do they have a well rehearsed fire escape plan that includes two ways out and a meeting place outside?
- Where will your child be sleeping?
- Will the parents walk through their escape plan with your child?
- Do the parents prohibit bedroom candle use by children?

Important Notice! Unattended cooking is the leading cause of residential fires, burn injuries and fire fatalities in the City of Richmond. Stay in the kitchen while cooking & **BE ALERT!**

Do you have a working smoke alarm? The Richmond Metro Fire Departments offer free smoke alarms, batteries and installation. Call the *Metro Richmond Fire Safety Hotline* toll-free at 1-888-537-5967 to schedule a visit from your firefighters. If you would like, we can even conduct a free home safety survey while we are there. Call today!

