



Be safe while cooking this holiday season!

Holmes Fire District #1 reminds everyone to be careful in the kitchen this holiday season.

In an effort to keep local residents safe, Holmes Fire District #1 offers suggestions for safe cooking and entertaining during Thanksgiving and the rest of this holiday season. Holidays usually include preparing large meals for a large number of people. We understand that cooking during the holidays is a chance to showcase skills and produce food to rival any professional chef. One of the first chapters in any professional culinary arts textbook includes a discussion of fire safety. We want to help everyone to have a safe holiday season for everyone involved in the kitchen.

The United States Fire Administration has published a few statistics on Thanksgiving Day fires. Cooking is the leading cause of fires in the home during Thanksgiving. Fires on Thanksgiving Day cause more damage and kill more people in homes than on other days. On an average Thanksgiving there are 1450 fires that kill 15 people, injure 41 more, and do about \$21 million in damage.

Holmes Fire District #1 offers the following tips for keeping the holiday cooking safe:

- Have working smoke alarms in all levels of your home.
- Never leave any cooking appliance unattended while it is being used.
- Keep a small fire extinguisher in the kitchen and know how to use it.
- Frequently, putting the lid on a pan that catches fire will smother the fire. Large amounts of salt or baking soda also work well for smothering fires.
- Never throw water on a fire on the stove. Putting water on burning oils will cause the fire to spread.
- Keep children away from stoves and other cooking appliances.
- Avoid using turkey fryers but if you choose to do so, use them outside away from buildings and keep them on level ground and follow the manufacturers instructions.
- Know your limits! Know what fires you can put out and what you can't. Don't waste valuable time trying to extinguish a fire that is too big before calling 911.
- We have been called to too many fires that would have been less destructive if we had been called earlier instead of the homeowner trying to fight the fire first. An average fire can double in size every minute.

To find out more about cooking and holiday fire safety, please visit:

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/cooking.shtm

http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/index.shtm

If you plan on frying a turkey, please visit:

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offerings/perspectives/consumer/productsafety/turkeys/>

Other fire safety information can be found on the Holmes Fire District #1 website:

http://www.holmesfiredistrict1.org/fire_safety/index.html

Holmes Fire District #1 wants everyone to have a happy and safe holiday season!