

# Cooking causes the most house fires.

## Here's how to keep your kitchen safer!

### Stay with the Stove.

Distraction is dangerous! Always stay in the kitchen when you have food on the stove, especially if cooking with oils. Never leave home while using the oven.



### Always Use a Timer.

It is easy to forget you have food cooking, especially when you are multi-tasking or entertaining. Always set a timer to remind you the heat's on! Your smart phone and oven likely have built-in timers, or you can buy one.



### Take Something with You.

Even if you try to stay focused on your cooking, you could be pulled away from the stove. For example, someone may need your assistance in another room, your doorbell could ring, your phone could ring, or you may need to go to the restroom. If you have to leave the room for even a few seconds while cooking, be sure to take something with you from the kitchen! Just grab an oven mitt or a wooden spoon as a handy reminder to get back to the kitchen right away.

### Don't Catch Your Clothes on Fire.

Wear short or form-fitting sleeves when cooking. Be sure to roll up your sleeves if they are long or baggy, such as when wearing a robe. If your clothes or hair ever catch on fire, remember to immediately *stop, drop* (down to the ground), *and roll* (back and forth to smother the flames.)

### Turn Back Handles.

Always keep children and pets at least three feet away from a hot stove, oven, or grill. Turn back the handles of your pots and pans. This will keep curious kids from pulling on the handle, and it will also help prevent anyone from accidentally bumping into a hot pot/pan.



### Keep the Stove Area Clear.

Always keep the area around your stove clear of anything that can burn. And pay extra attention to this while cooking! Many items used in the kitchen can easily catch fire, such as paper towels, oven mitts, hot pads, dish towels, cookbooks, and recipes.

### Cover to Smother.

If a fire starts on your stovetop, do not move the pot/pan—that will fuel the flames! It can also spill hot grease. **NEVER** put water on a grease fire. Instead, turn off the heat, then carefully slide/toss a lid or cookie sheet onto the fire to help smother it.

If a fire starts inside your OVEN, keep the oven door CLOSED!

If the fire is small and isn't located between you and your only exit, you may consider using a fire extinguisher on a stovetop fire. Always keep one handy near the kitchen.



### WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES!

For questions about smoke alarms or carbon monoxide alarms, or to request assistance for those who qualify, please call our Non-Emergency Alarm Hotline at (512) 989-4516. Or visit [www.PflugervilleFire.org](http://www.PflugervilleFire.org)