



## Fire Prevention Tips

### Kitchens are # 1 for Home Fires

According to the NFPA, the number one cause of home fires is from cooking left unattended. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. Turn off the burner if you leave the kitchen for any reason.

### What to Do If You Have a Cooking Fire

Always keep a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. **Never pour water onto a grease fire.** Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan has cooled. Never carry a burning pan or pot outside. One wrong move and now your home is on fire!

Another suggestion is to have a box of baking soda near by the stove (not above it). Baking soda is sodium bicarbonate and is what is used in many fire extinguishers. Safely sprinkle the baking soda over the fire to extinguish the flame.

### Smoking

Although fires caused by smoking only account for 5% of home fires, they are the leading cause of death in residential fires. People who smoke should do so outside the home and discard cigarette, cigar or pipe embers outside in a fire safe container. Smoking in bed is never a good idea.

### Home Fire Extinguishers

As a general rule, firefighting should be left to professional firefighters. Fire extinguishers are meant for putting out small fires or used to help escape from the area, not firefighting large out-of-control fires. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher before trying to use it in an emergency situation.

**Before trying to put out or contain a fire, be sure that:**

- You know how to use the fire extinguisher and it is the correct type
- Everyone else is leaving the home and someone is calling the fire department – 911
- The fire is small, confined, and not spreading
- You have a clear escape route and will not be overcome by smoke or toxic fumes

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