

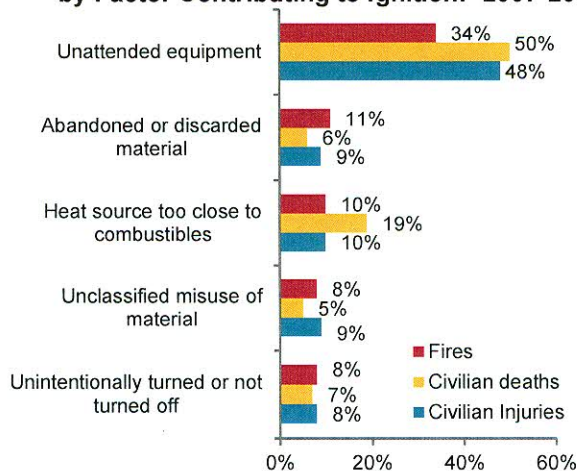
**Fire Prevention Packet**  
Raleigh Housing Authority  
Public Housing

## Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment Fact Sheet

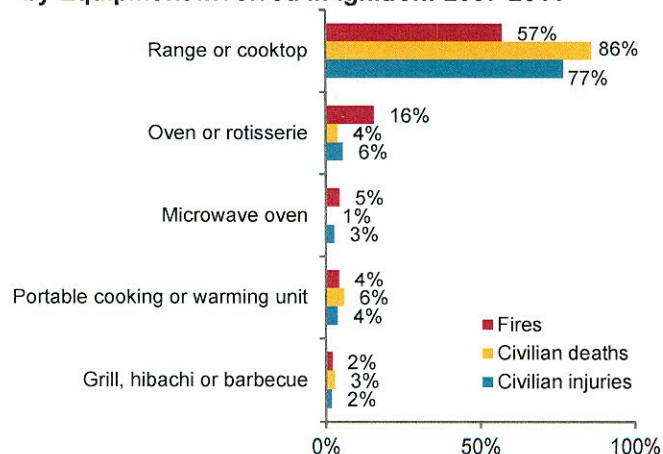
In 2007-2011, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 156,600 home<sup>1</sup> structure fires that involved cooking equipment per year. These fires caused an average of 400 civilian fire deaths, 5,080 civilian fire injuries, and \$853 million in direct property damage. The number of fires has been fairly stable in the past five years.

- Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries and was the third leading cause of home fire deaths during this period.
- Cooking equipment was involved in
  - Two of every five (43%) reported home fires,
  - One of every seven (16%) home fire deaths,
  - Two of every five (38%) of reported home fire injuries, and
  - Twelve percent of the direct property damage resulting from home fires.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in these fires and fire deaths.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but these incidents accounted for 15% of the cooking fire deaths.
- More than half (55%) of reported non-fatal home cooking fire injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves.
- Households that use electric ranges have a higher risk of fires and associated losses than those using gas ranges.
- Ranges or cooktops, with or without ovens, accounted for the majority (57%) of home cooking fire incidents and even larger shares of civilian deaths (86%) and injuries (77%).
- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.
- In a 1999 study of range fires by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 83% of frying fires began in the first 15 minutes of cooking.

**Home Cooking Equipment Fires  
by Factor Contributing to Ignition: 2007-2011**



**Home Cooking Equipment Fires  
by Equipment Involved in Ignition: 2007-2011**



<sup>1</sup>Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

## Non-Fire Cooking Burns Fact Sheet

**Most burns associated with cooking equipment, cookware, and tableware were caused by contact with a hot object or liquid rather than by fire or flame.**

Ranges or ovens were the most common cooking equipment involved in non-fire cooking burns. Only one out of eight thermal burns involving ranges or ovens were due to fire or flame.

Although tableware is not itself used for cooking, it often holds hot food or beverages even when not used for cooking.

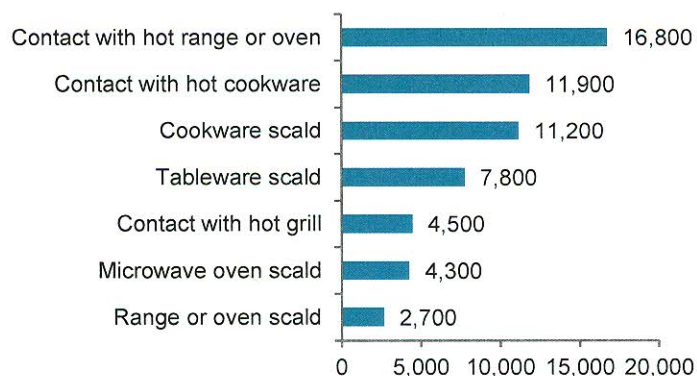
*Keep hot foods and liquids away from table and counter edges.*

Children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than of being burned in a cooking fire. These young children account for 7% of the population but much larger percentages of non-fire burn injuries from cooking equipment, tableware such as bowls and cups, and cookware such as pots and pans.

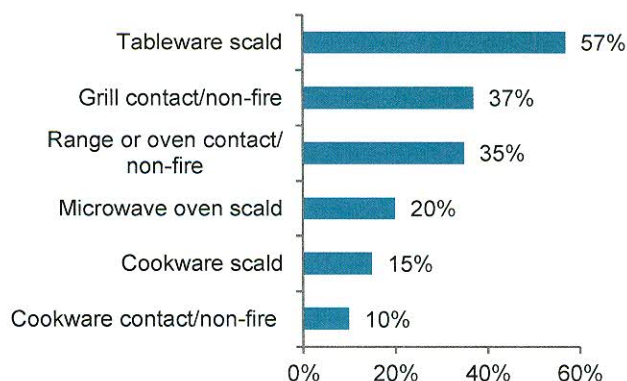
*Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.*

*Never hold a child while you are cooking, drinking a hot liquid, or carrying hot foods or liquids.*

**Non-Fire Cooking Burns Seen at Emergency Rooms in 2012**



**Percent of Non-Fire Cooking-Related Burns Seen at Emergency Rooms in 2012 Incurred by Children under Five Years Old**



Source: Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in October 2013.

Source: *Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment*, Marty Ahrens, November 2013

NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169, [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)  
Fire Analysis & Research Division, [osds@nfpa.org](mailto:osds@nfpa.org)





## Young Firesetters

Children playing with fire cause hundreds of deaths and injuries each year. Preschoolers and kindergartners are most likely to start these fires, typically by playing with matches and lighters, and are most likely to die in them.

- Children experience fire interest. They may ask questions such as how hot is fire or show an interest in fire through playing with fire trucks or cooking on a play stove. This is healthy, and it is time to begin educating about fire.
- Firestarting happens when children begin to experiment with fire using matches and lighters. Many fires happen when young children are left alone, even for a short period of time, and have access to matches and lighters. Parents must have clear rules and consequences about fire misuse.
- Grown-ups can help keep fire out of the hands of children.
- Store matches and lighters out of children's reach and sight, up high, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
- Never leave matches or lighters in a bedroom or any place where children may go without supervision.
- Teach young children and school-age children to tell a grown-up if they see matches or lighters. Children need to understand that fire is difficult to control, it is fast and can hurt as soon as it touches you.
- A child with an interest in fire can lead to fire starting and result in repeated firesetting behavior.
- It is important for grown-ups to discourage unsupervised fire starts.
- Never use lighters or matches as a source of amusement for children; they may imitate you.
- Never assign a young child any tasks that involve the use of a lighter or matches (lighting candles, bringing a lighter to an adult to light a cigarette or the fireplace, etc.)
- If your child expresses curiosity about fire or has been playing with fire, calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- Use only lighters designed with child-resistant features.  
*Remember, child-resistant does not mean child-proof.*

## Important!

Children and fire are a **deadly combination**. Some children play with fire out of curiosity, not realizing its danger. Troubled children may set a fire as a way of acting out their anger, disappointment or frustration.

If you suspect your child is intentionally setting fires or unusually fascinated with fire, get help. Your local fire department, school, or community counseling agency can put you in touch with trained experts who know how to teach children about fire in an appropriate way.



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



# COOK SAFELY

## WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!



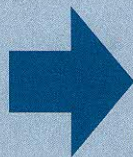
Cooking is the biggest cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!

## Keep an Eye on What You Fry



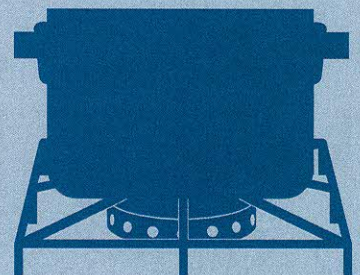
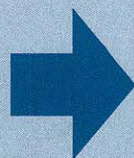
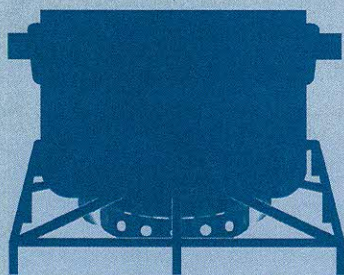
### **Stand by your pan.**

If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.



### **Watch what you are cooking.**

Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.



For more information, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/FireisEveryonesFight](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/FireisEveryonesFight)



# COOK SAFELY

## WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!



Cooking is the biggest cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!

## Be a Safe Cook



**Make sure you are awake and alert.**

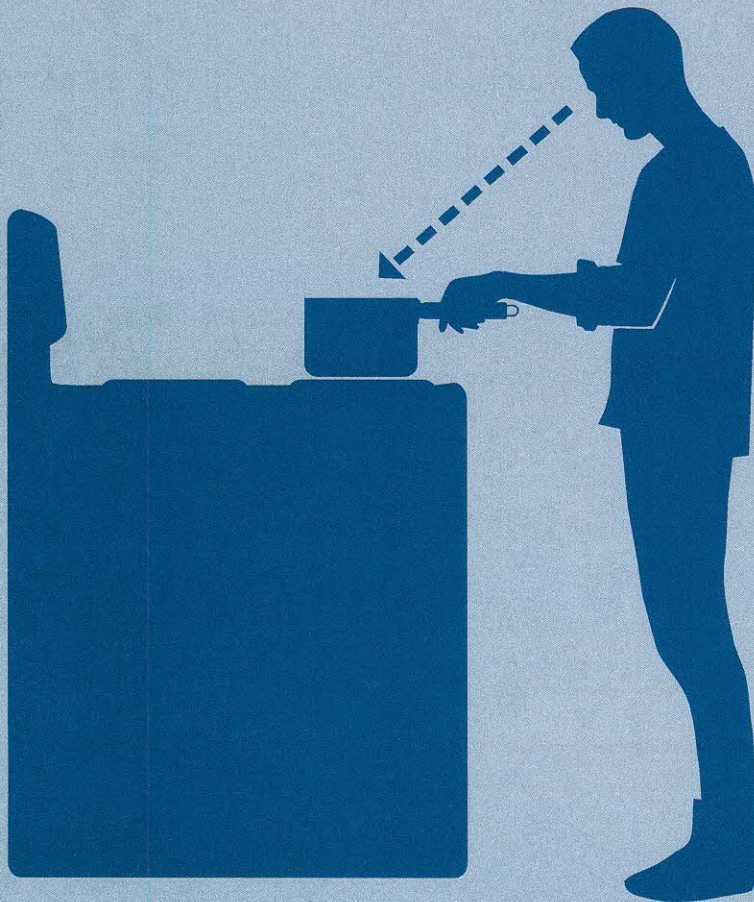
Alcohol and some drugs can make you sleepy.



**Wear short sleeves or roll them up so they don't catch on fire.**



**Keep your hair and clothes away from the burner.**



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# COOK SAFELY

## WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!



Cooking is the biggest cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!

## Be Prepared When Cooking

Make the cooking area safe.



### Clean and clear the area around the stove.

- Move things that can burn away from the stove. This includes dish towels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains.
- Make sure children and pets stay at least 3 feet away from a hot stove.

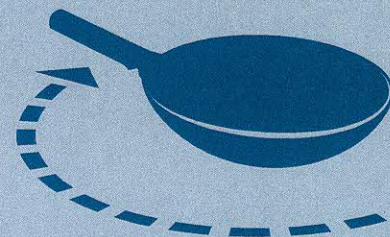


3 feet



### Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove.

- Then no one can bump them or pull them over.



### Keep a pan lid or a baking sheet nearby.

- Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

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# COOK SAFELY

## WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT!



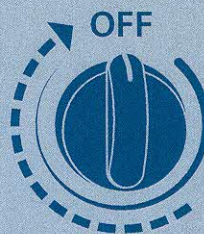
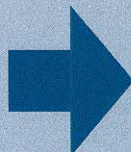
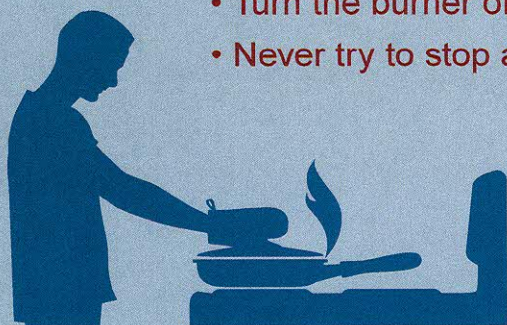
Cooking is the biggest cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!

## What to Do if Your Pan Is on Fire



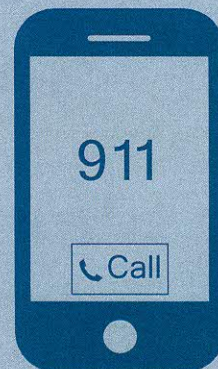
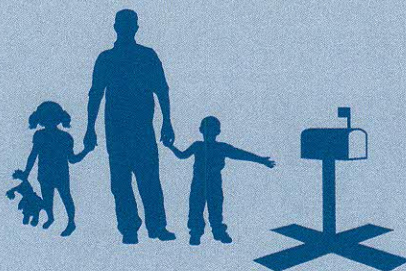
### Act fast.

- Keep the pan where it is. Do not move it!
- Slide the pan lid or a baking sheet on top of the pan.
- Turn the burner off. Keep the lid on the pan until it is cool.
- Never try to stop a grease or oil fire with water.



### When in doubt, just get out.

- Get everyone outside.
- Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from outside.
- Never go back inside a burning building.



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# Cooking Safety

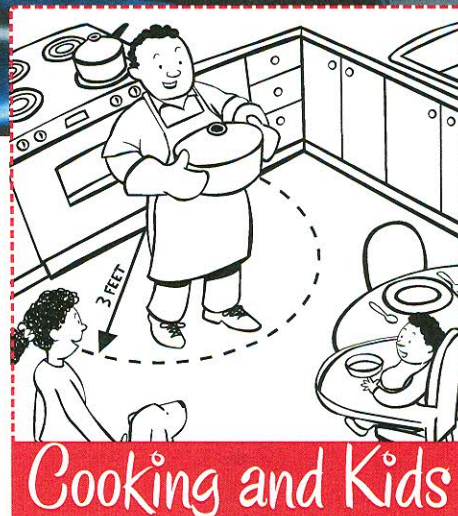
Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

## "COOK WITH CAUTION"

- » Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- » Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- » If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- » Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

## IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE...

- » Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- » Call **9-1-1** or the local emergency number after you leave.
- » If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- » Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- » For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



## Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

## FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.



**Your Source for SAFETY Information**

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



**We suggest that you share this information with your Housing Authority residents to reduce this exposure to fire in their individual units.**

**Although candles are popular year round, the majority of fires caused by candles occur in the months of January, February and March.**

### **Candle Safety**

More than 15,000 candle fires are reported annually. According to fire experts, the bulk of candle-fire incidents are due to consumer inattention to basic fire safety or to the misuse of candles.

**Always keep a burning candle within sight.** Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or before going to sleep.

**Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire.** Keep burning candles away from furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, books, paper, flammable decorations, etc.

**Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.** Do not place lighted candles where they can be knocked over by children, pets or anyone else.

**Trim candlewicks to ¼ inch each time before burning.** Long or crooked wicks cause uneven burning and dripping.

**Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use.** The holder should be heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax.

**Be sure the candleholder is placed on a stable, heat-resistant surface.** This will also help prevent possible heat damage to counters and table surfaces and prevent glass containers from cracking or breaking.

**Keep the wax pool free of wick trimmings, matches and debris at all times.**

**Always read and follow the manufacturer's use and safety instructions carefully.** Don't burn a candle longer than the manufacturer recommends.

**Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents, ceiling fans and air currents.** This will help prevent rapid, uneven burning, and avoid flame flare-ups and sooting. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they could catch fire.

**Always burn candles in a well-ventilated room.** Don't burn too many candles in a small room or in a "tight" home where air exchange is limited.

**Don't burn a candle all the way down. Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container.** For a margin of safety, discontinue burning a candle when 2 inches of wax remains or ½ inch if in a container.



**Place burning candles at least three inches apart from one another.** This is to make sure they don't melt one another, or create their own drafts that will cause the candles to burn improperly.

**Use a candle snuffer to extinguish a candle.** It's the safest way to prevent hot wax from splattering.

**Never extinguish candles with water.** The water can cause the hot wax to splatter and might cause a glass container to break.

**Be very careful if using candles during a power outage.** Flashlights and other battery-powered lights are safer sources of light during a power failure. Never use a candle during a power outage to look for things in a closet, or when fueling equipment - such as a lantern or kerosene heater.

**Make sure a candle is completely extinguished and the wick ember is no longer glowing before leaving the room.**

**Extinguish a candle if it smokes, flickers repeatedly, or the flame becomes too high.** The candle isn't burning properly and the flame isn't controlled. Let the candle cool, trim the wick, then check for drafts before re-lighting.

**Never use a candle as a night light.**