



**CHELAN FIRE and RESCUE**  
232 East Wapato  
Chelan, WA 98816  
[www.chelan7.com](http://www.chelan7.com)

**509-682-4476**

# Cooking Safety

Cooking fires continue to be the most common type of fires experienced by U.S. households. This is even more apparent during the holidays. **There is an increased incidence of cooking fires on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve Day and Christmas Day.** Cooking fires are also the leading cause of civilian fire injuries in residences. These fires are preventable by simply being more attentive to the use of cooking materials and equipment.

**Don't become a cooking fire casualty.**

- ❖ **Stay in the kitchen** when 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're cooking.
- ❖ **Keep things that can catch fire** – potholders, oven mitts, paper or plastic bags, curtains – away from your stovetop.
- ❖ **Wear short, close-fitting** or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto stove burners and can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or electric burner.
- ❖ **Have a "kid-free zone"** of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.
- ❖ **If you have a stove fire**, when in doubt, just get out and call the fire department.
- ❖ **Keep an oven mitt** and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by sliding the lid over the pan. Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.



- ❖ **In case of an oven fire**, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing. After a fire, the oven should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.
- ❖ **Open microwaved food slowly**, away from the face. Hot steam from a container of microwaved food or the food itself can cause burns.
- ❖ **Never heat a baby bottle** in a microwave oven because it heats liquids unevenly. Heat baby bottles in warm water.
- ❖ **Treat a burn right away**, putting it in cool water. Cool the burn for three to five minutes. Cover with a clean, dry cloth. If the burn is bigger than your first, or if you have any questions, get medical help right away.

- ❖ **Think Green!** Unplug small appliances when not in use.