



News Release

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For Release: IMMEDIATE

Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving

SUNRISE, FL)- The Sunrise Fire-Rescue Department wishes you and your family a very happy and safe Thanksgiving!

As folks are spending more time in the kitchen preparing for the holiday feast, it's especially important to stay safety-minded. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking is the leading cause of home fires on Thanksgiving Day. A cooking fire is three times more likely on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year.

"Most fires on Thanksgiving occur between noon and 4:00 p.m. – the peak cooking hours," says Sunrise Fire-Rescue Chief Thomas DiBernardo. "Most of those fires can be easily avoided by staying in the kitchen and actively paying attention to what's cooking."

Home cooking fires are typically caused by unattended cooking equipment, a heat source left too close to flammable materials, product misuse, or cooking equipment that is not properly turned off. In addition to watching what you heat, keep the pot or pan lid nearby when cooking on the stove. If something were to flame up on the burner, slide the lid over it to put it out, and turn off the heat. For any fire beyond that, immediately go outside and call 9-1-1.

The use of turkey fryers – which use a large amount of cooking oil at high temperatures – poses a significant danger and can lead to devastating burns or other injuries, as well as the destruction of property. If fried turkey is a "must" for your holiday tradition, the NFPA recommends seeking out grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants for preparation, or to use new "oil-less" turkey fryers.

Thanksgiving is also a risky time for cooking-related burns. To prevent scalds and burns, cook on back burners and make sure all pot handles are turned inward so children don't come into contact with them. Appliances that get hot, such as toaster ovens, should also be well out of a child's reach. Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drinks are prepared or carried.

Keep these tips in mind, cook with caution, and enjoy a safe Thanksgiving with your family and friends!

For on-going safety tips, 'Like' us on Facebook at Sunrise Fire-Rescue and follow us on Twitter@SunriseFRD.

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