

RESIDENTIAL COOKING FIRE PREVENTION

BACKGROUND

Residential cooking fires have been the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries regularly reported by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA). Cooking causes almost 50% of reported home fires, 20% of reported home fire deaths, and 42% of home fire injuries. Additionally, cooking caused almost half of the total dollar loss to property from all fires. The holidays, mainly Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Christmas Eve, are peak times for residential cooking fires.

DEFINITIONS

Fire Reactive Devices: These methods extinguish a fire once it's already started, hopefully stopping its spread and reducing the potential for damage.

Fire Prevention Devices: These devices help to prevent the fire from occurring, using sensors and alerts to stop the fire before it has a chance to start.

LEARN MORE

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The information presented in this document is advisory only. It is not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying specific hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter the information to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review your plans and company policies.

THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO COOKING FIRES

There are many factors that create circumstances that can lead to a fire while cooking. These include:

- **Unattended Cooking:** This is by far the leading contributor to these fires. The reason a person may leave a hot stovetop unattended spans from needing to do other chores in the home to forgetting the stove is on and falling asleep in another room.
- **Ranges vs Oven:** Over half of home cooking fires start on the range, while a quarter of the first are due to the oven.
- **Frying:** Using oils and other similar cooking mediums to fry food poses the greatest risk of a fire.



COOKING SAFETY AND FIRE PREVENTION

Whether it is an assisted living group home or a college dorm, property owners and management companies are looking for ways to protect the lives of those they serve and ensure the safety of their property for which they are responsible. Examples of these efforts include:

- Implement cooking fire prevention devices, such as stovetops that sense unattended cooking or limits the temperature of the cooking surface
- Implement [Auto-Out](#), or other fire reactive devices that expel an extinguishing agent in the event of a fire
- If fire extinguishers or other extinguishing devices are provided, be sure to have them checked and tested as recommended by the manufacturer

Finally, make sure smoke detectors are present and operational. In home fires resulting in deaths, 57% of the time a smoke alarm was not present or was not operational, according to the NFPA. Other fire detection or extinguishing equipment, such as fire sprinklers, should also be regularly checked and properly maintained.

Ultimately, the goal is to prevent fires, which requires a joint effort by building owners, building managers, and residents. A reasonable investment of time and resources by all three parties can help keep people safe and prevent costly damages to property.

References & Resources:

[Auto-Out Fire Suppressant- Philadelphia Insurance Companies \(phly.com\)](#)

[Pioneering Technology | SmartElement™ – Fire Prevention Products](#)

[SmartBurner - Stove Fire Prevention Device | Pioneering Technology](#)

[Pioneering Technology | SmartRange - Fire Prevention Products](#)

[Safety with cooking equipment | NFPA](#)