



Fire Rescue Department

Risk Reduction Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gainesville Fire Rescue and the National Fire Protection Association urge all citizens to **think safety when preparing holiday meals.**

The holidays are a time for celebration and that means lots of cooking, home decorating, entertaining and unfortunately an increased risk of fire.

Thanksgiving Day is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Unattended cooking is by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths. Frying poses the greatest risk of fire.

As you start planning your holiday schedule and preparing for that large family feast, remember to follow a few simple safety tips to keep your family and friends safe from fire in the heart of the home, the kitchen.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.
- Have activities that keep kids busy and out of the kitchen if you cannot be right next to them. Consider planning Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside of the kitchen.

Gainesville Fire Rescue is thankful for Thanksgiving Safety!

For more information about Thanksgiving safety please contact Assistant Chief Stephen Hesson at 352-334-5078. You can also like Gainesville Fire Rescue on Facebook for Safety Tips throughout the year!

