



## **COOKING FIRES**

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires. This statistic is from the National Fire Protection Association & FEMA. The majority of injuries resulted from people trying to fight the fire. Call 911 and get out. Leave firefighting to the pros!

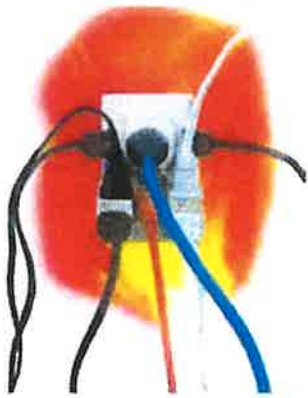
Don't disable smoke detectors while cooking if a 'nuisance' alarm happens. Turn off stove and remove pan. Open up windows and doors to air out kitchen.

Test & vacuum smoke detectors monthly. Change batteries twice a year when clocks are set.



### **Cooking Safety Tips**

- Stand by your pan!
- Don't leave cooking food, grease, or oils unattended. This is the leading cause of kitchen fires.
- Put a lid on a grease fire! This is the safest way to put it out. Keep a lid or a baking sheet nearby to smother the fire (baking soda works too). Turn off the heat. Never move a burning pan – you can get burned or the fire can quickly spread.
- Never use water or a fire extinguisher on a grease fire! Water or the force of the extinguisher can splash the flaming grease and spread it.
- Never wear loose fitting or flowing clothing while cooking! If clothes do catch fire, Stop, Drop, & Roll to put out flames. Cool burns with running water and call 911.
- Always keep pot handles turned inward on the stove!
- Make sure that all pot holders, towels, paper or plastic is away from heating elements!
- For a fire inside an oven or microwave, turn off the appliance, unplug if you can, and keep the door closed. Call 911. Metal, utensils, aluminum foil, and twist ties can cause fires in microwaves.
- Unplug appliances such as toasters and coffeepots when not in use.
- Never store items in an oven.
- Many of the individuals enjoy cooking but should be assisted and/or monitored by staff.



## HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES

Heating and electrical fires are the 2nd and 3rd causes of home fires.

Immediately inform **MCS Maintenance** department and call 911 for any of these warning signs:

- Arcs, sparks, or short circuits
- Sizzling or buzzing sound
- Odors, vague smell of something burning

Call **MCS Maintenance Department** ASAP for any of these warning signs:

- Frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers
- Dim or flickering lights or bulbs that wear out too fast
- Overheated plugs, cords, or switches
- Shock or mild tingle; more than normal static electricity
- Loose plugs
- Faulty outlets or switches

The plugs on **extension cords** are the places where heat builds up. They should never be used to fix a problem, they don't have the same safety features (like circuit breakers) that wall sockets have.



Look around your home and correct any of these problems:

- Overloaded outlets
- Cords pinched behind furniture like couches or bureaus
- Overloaded power strips
- Lamps with lightbulbs higher than the recommended wattage
- Electrical cords beneath rugs, carpet, or furniture
- Cords with frayed wire or cracked insulation
- Cords that are nailed into place – this can cause electrical shorts and arcing



## DRYER FIRES

Another leading cause of home fires is the dryer. Tips include:

- Clean the filter screen after each use. Lint can cause clogs, overheating and fire
- Wash the filter screen with warm soapy water every 6 months. Leftover chemicals from dryer sheets can cause clogs, overheating, and fire
- Never leave the dryer running when you are not home
- Clean out accumulated dust and lint in the hose pipe that vents to the outdoors twice a year with a vacuum cleaner
- Don't put mop heads in the dryer – cleaning chemical residue can cause a fire
- Don't leave clothing or other combustibles close to the dryer

