



Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips, you can prevent these fires.

Cooking Fire Facts



- Two-thirds of home cooking fires start with the ignition of food or other cooking materials.
- Clothing is the item first ignited in less than 1% of these fires, but clothing ignitions caused 8% of the home cooking fire deaths.
- Ranges or cooktops account for three-fifths of home cooking fire incidents.
- Unattended equipment is a factor in one-third of reported home cooking fires and over half of the associated deaths.

What you should know about home cooking safety

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from your stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- **DO NOT USE WATER!** Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled. The lid is the preferred method but you can also use baking soda or salt but needs to be in copious amounts.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Did you know...

Fire Departments in the United States respond to an average of **172,900** home fires per year involving cooking equipment?





Fort Huachuca Fire & Emergency Services FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Fire Extinguishers

A good fire response plan always includes the right fire extinguishers. Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen and every level of your home and practice a fire escape plan regularly.

How to use an Extinguisher

P

ull the "pin"
in the handle



A

im the nozzle
at the base of
the fire



S

queeze the
handle slowly



S




weep from
side to side



Fire Extinguisher Safety Tips

- Bigger is better when choosing an extinguisher.
- Replace your fire extinguisher if the gauge reads empty, or if it is older than 12 years.
- Make sure there's a clear exit when you use a fire extinguisher. This will allow you to escape quickly if the fire can't be controlled.
- The fire department has been called or is being called.
- The room is not filled with smoke.
- The fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing.

Prevent kitchen fires by always cleaning up spills and double-checking that you've turned off all burners.

FIRE CLASS & ICON	TIPS AND INFORMATION
A • TRASH • WOOD • PAPER 	• Class A fires involve common combustibles including wood, paper, cloth, rubber, trash and plastics.
B • LIQUIDS • GASES • SOLVENTS 	• Class B fires involve flammable liquids, solvents, oil, gasoline, paint, lacquer and other oil-based products. • Class B fires can spread very quickly. • Unless properly suppressed, Class B fires can re-flash after the flames have been extinguished.
C • ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT 	• Class C fires involve energized electrical equipment including wires, motors, machinery and appliances. Always unplug an electrical device before trying to put the fire out. This makes the fire much easier to extinguish. • They can be caused by a spark, power surge or short circuit. • They typically occur in hard to see or reach locations.



A Public Fire Safety Message from Fort Huachuca Fire & Emergency Services
partnering with Mountain Vista Communities





FIREWORKS are often used to mark special events and holidays. The only safe way to view fireworks is to attend a professional show. Fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year.

Sparkler Safety



Per Fort Huachuca Regulation 420-13, Chapter 2-1, r.(12) Fireworks. The use, sale, or possession of fireworks at this installation is strictly prohibited, except as an authorized display and approved by the Fire Prevention Office.

A few ideas to get into the patriotic spirit, without fireworks:

- Use glow sticks, they glow in the dark and are a safe alternative to a sparkler. Fun for all ages.
- Loud and proud. Noise makers are sure to make a statement. They can be found at local party supply stores or make your own.
- Outdoor movie night. Set up a screen and projector. Don't forget the bug spray!
- Red, white, and blue silly string...fun for all ages.
- Make a patriotic craft with the family.
- Throw a birthday party for the USA, and don't forget the cake.

Did you know....

Fireworks started an estimated **19,500** fires in 2018, including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 17,100 outside and other fires.





**There's nothing like outdoor grilling but a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard.
Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling!**

Propane Safety



Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.

Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.

If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.

If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately turn off all ignition sources, get away from the grill and call the fire department.

Do not move the grill.



Grilling Safety Tips

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- Grills should be placed at least 10' away from the home, clear of all exit paths and not under overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from the grill.
- Keep your grills clean by removing grease from the grill area and trays below.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always open your gas grill lid before lighting.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
- When using a propane grill and if the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting.

Never hesitate to call

9-1-1

if you smell gas!!





Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

Facts



- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- 60% of home fire deaths occur in homes with no working smoke alarms.
- An estimated 890 lives could be saved each year if all homes had working smoke alarms
- Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- Smoke may kill occupants long before flames are visible. Smoke detectors remain awake all day and all night, continually sensing even the faintest evidence of smoke and fire.

Safety Tips

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions yet mitigate false alarms.
- A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.
- Change batteries every 6 months.

Live in on-post housing? A high percentage of houses have 10-year smoke detectors installed, taking away the need to replace batteries. Contact Mountain Vista Communities to see if your home has one or to submit a service order if you're having problems with a detector.





The place where we feel safest — at home — is where most smoking-materials structure fires, deaths, and injuries occur. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths. Smoking material fires are preventable.

Electronic Cigarettes



- Electronic Cigarettes Fires have occurred while e-cigarettes were being used, the battery was being charged, or the device was being transported.
- Battery failures have led to small explosions.
- Never leave charging e-cigarettes unattended.
- E-cigarettes should be used with caution.

Smoking Safety

- If you smoke, use only fire-safe cigarettes.
- If you smoke, smoke outside. Most deaths result from fires that started in living rooms, family rooms and dens or in bedrooms.
- Keep cigarettes, lighters, matches, and other smoking materials up high out of the reach of children, in a locked cabinet.

Put It Out

- Use a deep, sturdy ashtray. Place it away from anything that can burn.
- Do not discard cigarettes in vegetation such as mulch, potted plants or landscaping, peat moss, dried grasses, leaves, or other things that could ignite easily.
- Before you throw away butts and ashes, make sure they are out, and dousing in water or sand is the best way to do that.

Smoking and Medical Oxygen

- Never smoke and never allow anyone to smoke where medical oxygen is used. Medical oxygen can cause materials to ignite more easily and make fires burn at a faster rate than normal. It can make an existing fire burn faster and hotter.

Did you know....

Smoking materials, including cigarettes, pipes, and cigars, started an estimated **16,500** home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments in 2016.





Fort Huachuca Fire & Emergency Services FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Wildfire Preparation

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S., and more and more people are living where wildfires are a real risk but by working together residents can make their own property - and their neighborhood - much safer from wildfire.

HOME IGNITION ZONE CHECKLIST

SIMPLE STEPS FROM ROOF TO
FOUNDATION TO MAKE A HOME SAFER
FROM EMBERS AND RADIANT HEAT

- ☐ Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers
- ☐ Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration
- ☐ Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening
- ☐ Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers
- ☐ Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows
- ☐ Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating
- ☐ Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors - mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles - anything that can burn
- ☐ Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

Image by NFPA, with funding from USDA Forest Service

Before a Wildfire Threatens...

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches, and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house. Learn more about the basics of defensible space on the Firewise website.
- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck, or porch.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
- Assemble an emergency supply kit and place it in a safe spot. Remember to include important documents, medications, and personal identification.
- Develop an emergency evacuation plan and practice it with everyone in your home.
- Plan two ways out of your neighborhood and designate a meeting place.

During the time a wildfire is in your area...

- Stay aware of the latest news and updates from your local media and fire department. Get your family, home and pets prepared to evacuate. **Prepare for Ready, Set, Go.**
- Place your emergency supply kit and other valuables in your vehicle.
- Move patio or deck furniture, cushions, door mats and potted plants in wooden containers either indoors or as far away from the home, shed and
- Close/protect your home's openings, including attic, basement doors, vents, windows, garage doors and pet doors to prevent embers from penetrating your home.
- Connect garden hoses, fill any pools, hot tubs, garbage cans, tubs, or other large containers with water. Firefighters have been known to use the hoses to put out fires on rooftops.
- Leave as early as possible, before you're told to evacuate. Do not linger once evacuation orders have been given. Promptly leaving your home and neighborhood clears roads for firefighters to get equipment in place to fight the fire.



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