

# ALEXANDRIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Dedicated to our Community, Our Profession and Each Other*

## *Cooking Fire Safety*

- \* Be Alert! Never leave your cooking unattended; stay in the kitchen when frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave the kitchen, even for a second, turn off the stove.
- \* Use a timer.
- \* Always use potholders.
- \* Keep things that can catch fire away from the cooking area.
- \* Always cook with pot handles turned inward, and with appliance cords safely out of the way. Protruding handles and dangling cords are too easily pulled or jostled, spilling scalding liquids on people and furniture.
- \* Roll up your sleeves, tuck in your shirt, and pin back long hair.
- \* Water and grease don't mix. In the event of a grease fire, don't pour water on it; water will cause the fire to spread. Use a fire extinguisher, or when in doubt, get out and call for help.
- \* If a pan catches fire, slide a lid over the pan and turn off the stove burner. Leave the lid on until it is completely cool (Covering a pan fire with a lid is the safest way to put out the fire).
- \* Keep the oven or microwave door shut if fire starts. Turn off the heat. If the flames do not go out immediately, get out and call for 9-1-1.
- \* "Stop, drop, and roll" if your clothes catch fire.
- \* Keep cooking area clean to prevent grease buildup. Clean the exhaust hood and duct over the stove regularly and wipe up spilled grease as soon as the surface of the stove is cool.
- \* Create a three-foot "child-free zone" around the stove. Keep children and pets away from the stove while cooking to prevent burns and scalds.
- \* Unplug appliances, such as toasters and coffee makers, when not in use.
- \* Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen.
- \* Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen, on each level of your home and in sleeping areas. Use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.

*For more information on this or other safety issues, please visit [www.alexandriava.gov/fire](http://www.alexandriava.gov/fire) or contact the Community Services Unit at 703-746-5269*

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