

## **Cooking Fires**

### **Careless Cooking is the #1 cause of residential fires.**

It is always best to prevent a fire than to have to deal with one. Remember to use a moderate cooking temperature, don't overfill the container, and if you must leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. Unattended cooking is the primary cause of kitchen fires.

- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove. Curious children may reach up and grab the handle, pulling the hot contents down on themselves.
- Don't position handles over another burner, it may catch on fire or burn someone who touches it.
- Keep stove drawers (broiler area/ pan storage) clear of papers and flammable items.
- Make sure pot holders are not too close to the stove. They could catch fire!
- Keep ovens, broilers, stove tops, and exhaust ducts free from grease.
- If there is a fire in the oven - turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed.

Over half the people attempting to extinguish a kitchen fire are injured. Often the best advice is to get everyone out of the house and call the fire department (911) from a neighbor's house. Never try to move the pan.

If you attempt to extinguish the fire, it is best to use a class ABC multipurpose fire extinguisher. Follow the manufacturer's instructions - stay back six to eight feet and be careful not to spray the grease out of the pan. Baking soda can also smother the fire. If the fire has not burned for more than fifteen seconds, it may still be possible to turn the burner off and use a tight fitting lid to smother the fire, but only if the fire is still small and has not spread beyond the pan.