



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The West Hartford Fire Department is committed to fire prevention and community safety. Reaching out to the people we serve is important because the information we offer may result in a fire being prevented.

With the leading cause of kitchen fires being unattended cooking, we ask that you help us with reducing the staggering statistics. Kitchen fires can not only start quickly, but they can spread beyond your control just as fast. Fortunately, there are precautions you can take to prevent an accident that could damage your property, leave someone injured, and change your life.

We suggest taking the following steps to prevent out of control fires and reduce accidental injuries:

- Never leave food on the stove unattended. Stay in the kitchen. If you must leave, keep a spoon or other reminder in hand so you'll be prompted to return to the kitchen before too long.
- Keep children and pets 3 feet away from the stove and all hot food and drinks.
- Store oven mitts, cooking tools, and food packaging within reach, but safely away from heat.
- Make sure everyone is familiar with the sound of your smoke alarm for early warning of a potential fire.

If ever there's a fire in the oven, quickly and carefully turn it off and keep the oven door closed. If a fire starts on the stovetop, cover the pot/pan and turn off the burner. In either instance, get to a safe place and call 9-1-1. The West Hartford Fire Department will respond quickly with the training and equipment to properly extinguish the fire and reduce its spread throughout your home.

We want you to be safe in the kitchen and enjoy preparing your meal. If you have any questions about how to prevent kitchen fires, please call the Fire Marshal's Office: 860.561.8320 or visit our website: westhartfordct.gov/firemarshal. Thank you for joining us in our mission of fire prevention which keeps our community safe.

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