



HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE BERWYN FIRE DEPARTMENT

Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. So keeping fire safety in mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at your home.

As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, remember, by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safe from fire and injuries.

The Berwyn Fire Department and the National Fire Protection Association encourage you to stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove or in the oven, so you can keep an eye on the food. Check on your turkey frequently. Make sure that children stay away from the stove, especially because hot liquids, such as steam or splashes from vegetables or gravy, could cause serious burns. Make sure that your knives are out of reach of small children. Be sure that electrical cords from an electric knife, coffee maker or mixer aren't dangling off the counter, within easy reach of a child.

Only have candles lit if you are in the same room with them. And, of course, test your smoke alarms to be sure they are all working.

For all the fried turkey lovers, use extra caution when using a fryer requiring oil. They use a substantial amount of oil that is cooking at a very high temperature.

But whatever you choose, just remember to be cautious, be aware and enjoy yourself and the time with your family and friends!

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY KITCHEN FIRE SAFETY



The Thanksgiving holiday is upon us and Berwyn families will be coming together for a time of celebration and thankfulness. The hours spent in the kitchen preparing turkey, mashed potatoes, pies and all the other fixings, however, comes with an increased risk for household fires. The Berwyn Fire Department would like to remind you of the importance of taking safety precautions to ensure a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. Cooking is, and has long been, the leading cause of home structure fires and home fire injuries, and according to statistics, home cooking fires increase significantly around the times of major holidays.

Before Thanksgiving Day:

- Clean the stovetop and oven of any built-up grease.
- Know where the closest fire extinguisher is located.

On Thanksgiving Day:

- Keep an eye on what you fry. Always stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling or broiling food. If you have to leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep things that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area.
- Be alert when cooking. If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Keep the number of people in your kitchen to a minimum, especially children.
- Crowded kitchens cause confusion and result in burns.
- Turn pot handles on the stovetop toward the center of the stove.

Use Turkey Fryers Outdoors:

- Turkey Fryers can pose real fire dangers. Do not use near combustible surfaces.
- Never use them on a wooden deck or in a garage
- Turkey fryers can easily tip over, spilling hot cooking oil over a large area.
- An overfilled cooking pot will cause cooking oil to spill when the turkey is put in, and a partially frozen turkey will cause cooking oil to splatter when put in the pot.
- Even a small amount of cooking oil spilling on a hot burner can cause a large fire.
- Without thermostat controls, deep fryers can overheat oil to the point of starting a fire.
- The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles can get dangerously hot.

In the event of a FIRE:

- Stovetop Fire – Cautiously slide a cookie sheet or a lid over the pan and turn off the stove. Never attempt to carry a hot pan to the sink. **CALL 9-1-1**
- Oven Fire – Close the oven door and turn off heat. **CALL 9-1-1** Once the oxygen has been depleted the fire will go out. Wait until the oven has cooled before opening the door again. This applies to microwave ovens as well.
- If you are not able to extinguish the fire, evacuate everyone to your Safe Meeting Place and **CALL 9-1-1**

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