



*****For Immediate Release*****

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Date: November 22, 2022

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Thanksgiving Safety

Olympia – The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. The Washington State Fire Marshal's Office wants to provide everyone some kitchen safety tips when it comes to enjoying this traditional family holiday.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment with Christmas Day and Christmas Eve following close behind. Between 2017 to 2021 fire agencies in Washington State reported more than 9,850 fires related to cooking resulting in 13 fire fatalities and \$44 million in dollar loss.

Practice these cooking safety guidelines whether it's for the holidays or any other time you are cooking:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking to keep an eye on any food on the stovetop. Unattended cooking is by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from the stove and never hold a child while cooking.
- Be sure electric cords are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child or pets.
- Keep clothing sleeves and loose fitting clothing away from burners.
- Keep the floor clear so you or others don't trip over toys, purses, or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Make sure children stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy, or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Make sure your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are working. Remember to test them by pushing the test button.

For more information, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360-596-3929.

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The State Fire Marshal's Office is a Bureau of the Washington State Patrol, providing fire and life safety services to the citizens of Washington State. These services include public education, licensing and certification of the fire sprinkler, fireworks, and cigarette industries, data collection and analysis, fire and life safety inspections for state facilities, plan review of school construction projects, all-risk mobilization of statewide fire service resources, hazardous materials training, and training and certification of firefighters.

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