

Watch What You Heat

Safety advocates are spreading the word on the dangers of cooking fires, most of which result from unattended cooking. According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen, more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

Here are several safety tips from firefighters and safety advocates on how to prevent cooking fires:



- ◆ Stay in the kitchen when you're frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.

- ◆ If you must leave the room, even for a short period, turn off the stove.

- ◆ When you're simmering, baking,

or roasting food, check it regularly. Stay home and use a timer.

- ◆ If you have young children, use the stove's back burners as much as possible.
- ◆ Keep young children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- ◆ When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- ◆ Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- ◆ Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Handle Tools with Care

- Select the right tool for the job you're doing.

- Examine a tool for damage before using it. Keep your tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
- Use the proper protective equipment for the tool you're using.

- Don't wear loose clothing, dangling objects, or jewelry. If you have long hair, restrain it.

- Avoid dangerous environments. Don't use a power tool in a damp, wet, or unsafe area.
- Always disconnect electrical tools when not in use or when changing accessories such as drill bits, blades, or cutters.
- Avoid carrying the tool by the cord. Hold it by the handle.
- Secure items with a clamp or vise so your hands are free to operate the tool.
- Make sure observers are at a safe distance away.
- Keep good footing and maintain good balance.



Avoid Glue Gun Burns

Fall begins the big season for crafts, and a glue gun is used for many projects. **The following are some safety tips from the Hobby Industry Association:**

- Handle objects you're gluing with tweezers or toothpicks when possible.
- Use the right glue stick for wood, glass, fabric, or other surfaces; clean and sand smooth surfaces before attempting to bond.
- Cool the glue gun completely before storing it.

Prevent Crimes at Home

- Never automatically open your front door. Make sure you know a visitor's identity before admitting him or her.
- If the person at your door is a stranger, ask for identification to be passed under the door. If they're unable to do this, don't allow them in.
- Install a wide-angle viewer (peep-hole) in your door so that you can check a person's identity without unlocking your door.
- Install dead-bolt locks on all doors that lead to the outside.
- Place sufficient lighting in the front and back of your home.
- Trim all landscaping below windows to avoid concealment areas.
- Fortify your windows and sliding glass doors with secondary locks or dowels



- that fit securely in windows.
- Never leave a key over a door or under a door mat.
- Mark your valuables and keep an accurate record of your most valuable possessions.
- When leaving on a trip, stop all deliveries, connect a light to a timer, have a neighbor check your home periodically, and have someone maintain your lawn.
- Make sure your address is

visible from the street so emergency personnel can respond quickly.

- Get a dog. Dogs are a good deterrent to burglars.
- Be a concerned neighbor. If you see a suspicious person, car, or situation, contact the police.
- Organize and/or join a neighborhood watch program.

For more information, visit the National Crime Prevention Council at www.ncpc.org.