

Bend Fire & Rescue Reminds Residents to 'Watch What You Heat'

by Bend Weekly News Sources

One out of three home fires begins in the kitchen

October is National Fire Prevention Month and Bend Fire & Rescue is reminding residents to 'Prevent Cooking Fires: "Watch What You Heat"•.

During this year's fire safety campaign, Bend Fire & Rescue will be spreading the word about the dangers of cooking fires--most of which result from unattended cooking"and teaching local residents how to prevent cooking fires from starting in the first place.

According to the latest 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.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Bend Fire Chief Larry Langston. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Month will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

Among the safety tips that Bend Fire & Rescue will be emphasizing:

• Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food. • If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.

• When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.

• If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep 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.

Fire Prevention Week, October 8-14, is actively supported by fire departments across the country. This is the 85th year that fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

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