



# SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## San Francisco Fire urges you to practice safe cooking

**San Francisco, CA** –According to FEMA's National Data Center, cooking is the leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires. More than half (54%) of these fires occur between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., when many people are preparing Thanksgiving dinner.

*"Thanksgiving Day is one of our busiest days responding to home cooking fires, and we want to reduce that number by practicing safe cooking and holiday decoration applications," said Lt. Jonathan Baxter. "It's easy to become distracted while cooking for family and friends. On Thanksgiving Day, with all the commotion and excitement, make sure you don't leave your cooking area unattended so that cooking accidents can be avoided."*

Per the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by the day before Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and Christmas Eve. Unattended cooking is the leading factor in cooking fires, with Thanksgiving having four times the average number. Ranges or cooktops were involved in 61% of reported home cooking fires. To help reduce the chance of fire and injuries associated with holiday cooking, SFFD offers you the following tips:

- Always stay in the kitchen while preparing food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period, turn off the stove and oven.
- Regularly check on food that is simmering, baking, or roasting, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking even though you're staying close by.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Someone walking by is less likely to bump them or pull them over, including family pets.
- Keep children and pets three feet away from the hot stove and hot food and hot liquids.
- Make sure a fire extinguisher is always close-by.
- Never use water to put out a grease fire.
- Ensure you have working smoke alarms installed in your home.
- Make sure you have a practiced escape plan that includes pets and visitors.

- When using a turkey fryer, be sure to follow instructions closely. Don't exceed the recommended oil level and only use the device outdoors. Never place a frozen turkey in hot oil.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over items (Kids, Pets, and visitors may inadvertently leave things in your walkway).
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Consider using battery-operated candles
- If using traditional candles, never leave them unattended, and extinguish if leaving.
- If using a floor heater for added comfort, place at least 3 feet away from other items.
- Please follow your [local COVID 19 safety guidelines](#).

For more holiday safety information, visit:

1. <https://www.nfpa.org/cooking>.
2. <https://sf-fire.org/safety-resources-and-information/winterholiday-fire-safety-tips>

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