

Kitchen safety promoted as Fire Prevention Week kicks off

October 6 to 13, 2013 is Fire Prevention Week and officials are calling on Edmontonians and all Albertans to stay fire safe throughout the home, but especially in the kitchen where most house fires and fire-related injuries occur.

"With Thanksgiving just a week away we are reminding residents to stay safe in the kitchen," said Edmonton Fire Chief Ken Block. "For the last five years cooking has been the number one cause of fire and fire injuries in Edmonton homes and regardless of the season, safety should be the number one priority."



As part of Fire Prevention Week, Chief Block and Alberta Fire Commissioner Trent West held a demonstration of cooking safety at the ATCO Blue Flame Kitchen. This year's theme is *Prevent Kitchen Fires*.

Since 2008 there have been 287 cooking fires in Edmonton and 68 fire injuries. Last year saw the highest cooking fire numbers of the five-year stretch with 65 cooking fires being reported, or roughly 10 percent of all fires reported. These statistics are consistent with province-wide trends.

"Fire Prevention Week reminds all Albertans of the importance of preventing fires in our homes and keeping our families and communities safe. This year's theme is *Preventing Kitchen Fires* and I encourage all Albertans to pay special attention while cooking and to never leave their stoves unattended," said the Minister of Municipal Affairs Doug Griffiths.

Protect your family from fire by following these safety tips:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Use back burners whenever possible and keep pot handles turned in to the centre of the stove.
- Have a childfree perimeter around any cooking appliances.
- Keep cooking appliances clean and free of dried-on food or grease.
- Always keep a lid within reach in case a fire starts.
- Avoid cooking if you are tired, drowsy or under the influence of medication or alcohol.
- Fry foods in a temperature-controlled electric skillet or fryer. These appliances are designed for a maximum temperature of 200°C to prevent cooking oil from catching fire.

What to do if a fire starts on your stove:

- Remain calm.
- Do not move the pot or pan.
- Simply slide a lid over the pot or pan. This cuts off the oxygen supply and smothers the fire.
- Turn off the heat source.
- If the fire spreads, evacuate your home and dial 911 immediately.

Media contacts:

[Michael Tucker](#)
Public Information Officer
Corporate Communications
780-496-3600

Heather Kaszuba
Communications
Alberta Municipal Affairs
780-717-3913

Share:     

3rd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW
Edmonton, AB
T5J 2R7
www.edmonton.ca

[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Printer Friendly Version](#)

This email was created and delivered through [Mailout](#)