



Fire Prevention Week 2020: Serve up Fire Safety in the Kitchen

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Pickering, ON, October 2, 2020 – Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10, 2020 and Pickering Fire Services is using this year's theme to draw special attention to preventing cooking fires, and staying fire-safe in the kitchen.

"Cooking happens in the home every day, and it has to be done responsibly to ensure it is done safely," said Fire Chief John Hagg. "I urge all residents to protect themselves and their family by remaining alert and staying in the kitchen while cooking."

Cooking fires continue to be the leading cause of home fires in Ontario. Simple steps to serve up fire safety in the kitchen include:

- Always stay in the kitchen when cooking and turn off the stove if you must leave the kitchen.
- Keep a proper fitting lid near the stove. If a pot of oil catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pot. Never throw water on a burning pot.
- Keep anything that burns – plastic utensils, dishcloths, paper towels – a safe distance from the stove.
- Cook responsibly. To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you have consumed alcohol or drugs.
- Wear tight-fitting or rolled-up sleeves when using the stove. Loose, dangling clothing can easily catch fire.
- Keep young kids one metre away from the stove. Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge so that they can't be easily knocked off.
- If you burn yourself while cooking, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes. If the burn is severe, seek medical attention.

"Oftentimes, when we are called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the resident explains that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Hagg. "However, a few minutes is all it takes for a dangerous fire to start, and potentially spread rapidly. Do your part to help keep our community safe."

As part of Fire Prevention Week, Pickering Fire Services will be at the **Farmers' Market** on October 6, from 9 am to 2 pm to educate the public and answer any questions.

Please contact Pickering Fire Services at **905.839.9968** or **fire@pickering.ca** for further information or questions.

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As the gateway to the east GTA, Pickering (population 94,000) is strategically located where Toronto, York and Durham Regions meet. An award-winning municipality, Pickering is slated for significant economic and residential growth; offering an unparalleled quality of life for those who live, work, and play here. Its dynamic City Centre has been designated by the Province of Ontario as both an Urban Growth Centre and

Mobility Hub, and continues to evolve as a preferred destination for creative learning, memorable events, and unique experiences at the heart of a vibrant, connected, and engaged community.

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