



U.S. Fire Administration
Working for a fire-safe America

October Fire Safety Resources

Fire Prevention & Safety News | Oct. 5, 2020

Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen

Cooking Fires in Residential Buildings

Each year, from 2016 to 2018, fire departments in the United States responded to an estimated average of

189,300

**cooking fires
in residential
buildings.**

These fires caused an estimated:



deaths



injuries



in prop



Cooking is often relaxing and fun and the kitchen a wonderful place for families and friends to gather. But as you know, cooking is also the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries.

During [Fire Prevention Week](#), remind your community about these cooking facts to help them understand the fire risks in the kitchen.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires.

Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking at high temperatures. If you must leave, turn off the burner. When simmering on the stove or baking in the oven, set a timer if you leave the kitchen to remind you that you are cooking. It is very easy to get distracted by electronics and lose track of time.

Many home cooking fires happen on the kitchen range.

Before you turn on the heat, move dishtowels, bags, boxes, paper and curtains, anything that can burn, away from the stove. When you are finished, wipe up any spills or food that may have fallen on the stove.

Frying is the greatest risk for a home cooking fire.

Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking at high temperatures, like frying, boiling and grilling. When oil gets too hot it can easily start a fire. Keep a pot lid or a cookie sheet nearby when you are cooking at high temperatures. If the pot starts to flame, put the lid or cookie sheet over the pot, turn off the heat and let it cool.

We know many departments can't organize community events this year because of COVID-19. To help, USFA created materials for social media and your website.

- [Social media cards](#) – social cards provide the opportunity to share a quick safety message with your audience.
- [Videos](#) – share videos to teach your community about safe cooking practices.
- [Pictographs](#) – pictographs can reinforce the messages in your social posts and assist community members in understanding the messages.

Take this opportunity to reinforce the safety risks in the kitchen and teach your community how to cook safely.

Home fire fatalities in the news



Across the Nation, 1,511 [home fire fatalities](#) have been reported in the media so far this year. This is slightly higher than 2019, when there were 1,480 fatalities reported in the media from January 1 through September 30.

USFA compiles home fire fatalities through a daily Internet search of U.S. news media reports. You can run state reports for a specific timeframe,

housing type and cause. This is one more tool to help you raise awareness about the danger of fire and the frequency of home fire deaths.

Fire is Everyone's Fight



Fire is Everyone's Fight® is an initiative led by the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) with the intent to unite the fire service in a collaborative effort to reduce home fire injuries, deaths and property loss.

USFA invites fire departments, safety advocates, community groups, schools, etc. to rally behind a common and compelling theme. This will assist us in communicating and reinforcing key lessons from proven fire safety and prevention initiatives and programs.

Did you know that more than 30 million adults in the United States can't read, write or do basic math above a third-grade level? Besides literacy challenges, many cities have hundreds of languages and dialects spoken in their communities.

Our [pictographs](#) can help you reach everyone in your community with fire and life safety messages. Learn how to effectively deliver fire safety messages to people who speak different languages and come from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant - COVID-19 Supplemental Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing an additional opportunity for **volunteer** and **combination** fire departments to apply for funding under the fiscal year 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant – COVID-19-Supplemental Program (AFG-S) to support the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and related supplies by the fire service community to help prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus pandemic. FEMA anticipates opening the application period in October 2020.

The purpose of AFG-S is to award grants directly to fire departments to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as first responders, through the purchase of PPE and essential supplies related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Volunteer and combination fire departments in any of the 50 states as well as fire departments in the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any federally recognized Indian tribe or tribal organization are eligible. A fire

department is defined as an agency or organization having a formally recognized arrangement with a state, local, tribal or territorial authority (e.g. city, county, parish, fire district, township, town or other governing body) to provide fire suppression to a population within a geographically fixed primary first due response area.

Volunteer and combination fire departments are eligible to apply in this round even if they had a successful application in the first round. However, new applications must support new capabilities. Departments that applied in the first round but were unsuccessful must reapply in this round; applications from the first round will not automatically carry forward to this round for consideration.

All activities under this solicitation will be limited to the purchase of PPE and related supplies required to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19. This includes reimbursement for expenditures made since Jan. 1, 2020.

For more information, attend a webinar or check out the [Grants website](#).

Fire and EMS: explore these critical resources to assist you with infection control, cost reimbursement and your overall response to COVID-19.



Questions? [Contact Us](#)

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