**COOKING OR KITCHEN FIRE NEWS RELEASE**

DEPARTMENTS SHOULD WORK WITH SURROUNDING AREA AGENCIES ON NEWS RELEASES TO AVOID DUPLICATION WHEN ISSUING TO MEDIA.

**CONTACT:
PHONE:**

**FOLLOWING A FIRE THAT** [KILLED/INJURED] [NUMBER OF THOSE KILLED/INJURED], [YOUR DEPARTMENT] **IS ASKING RESIDENTS TO STAY IN THE KITCHEN WHILE COOKING**

**-- or --**

**FOLLOWING A FIRE THAT DESTROYS** [YOUR CITY] **FAMILY’S HOME,** [YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT] **IS ASKING RESIDENTS TO STAY IN THE KITCHEN WHILE COOKING**

*Cooking is the Leading Cause of Residential Fires in Minnesota*

[YOUR CITY/COUNTY], Minn. – [NUMBER OF PEOPLE] were [KILLED/INJURED] on [DATE/DAY] in what appears to be a cooking-related fire. ALTERNATIVE INTRO: A [YOUR CITY/COUNTY] family is without a home following what appears to be a cooking-related fire.

The [NAME OF YOUR DEPARTMENT] responded to a fire at approximately [TIME] in the [XXX BLOCK] of [STREET NAME]. [MORE PUBLIC DATA ABOUT THE FIRE. RESPONDING AGENCIES. WHAT FIREFIGHTERS ENCOUNTERED AT THE SCENE. ANYONE TRANSPORTED? ETC.]

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of residential fires in Minnesota. [INSERT ANY LOCAL STATISTICS HERE]. The [YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT NAME] is asking residents to stay in the kitchen while they are cooking to help reduce the number of kitchen fires in our community.

Here are a few recipes for safety in your kitchen:

* Keep things that burn away from the cooking area and appliances in your kitchen. Don't place towels, pot holders, pizza boxes, or paper bags on the stove or near hot appliances.
* Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen for some reason, turn the heat off and take something with you (a hot pad, a timer, a ladle or spatula) to remind you that you have something cooking.
* Clean any grease build-up from the stove, oven and exhaust fan regularly. Cooking grease and oil ignite easily and burn rapidly.
* Slide a lid over the pan to smother a small pan fire and turn off the heat source. Do not use water or flour on a grease fire. Do not try to carry a burning pan outside or to the sink. You could accidentally spread the fire.
* Keep pot handles turned inward, out of the reach of children and pets.

“Following these simple tips may sound like common sense, but we need to think about these things, because obviously the result of being complacent in the kitchen can be tragic,” [TITLE AND NAME OF YOUR FIRE OFFICIAL] said.

[Check out these cooking safety tips](https://go.usa.gov/xfk9E) and share them with your family and friends. [OR LINK TO YOUR WEBSITE IF SMOKING-REALTED INFO IS AVAILABLE].