

## S A F E T Y N O T E S

October 2013



Officially, National Fire Prevention Week takes place October 6-12. In reality, Spokane Fire Department hopes that everyone is mindful of fire prevention every day of the year!

Fire Departments across the US and Canada emphasize the importance of prevention during the second week of October in remembrance of the devastation caused by The Great Chicago Fire in 1871. By the time the fire was extinguished, over 100,000 people were homeless, 250 persons had died, and 17,000 structures were destroyed.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) selected the 2013 “Prevent Kitchen Fires” theme because cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Two of every five home fires start in the kitchen. According to the NFPA, unattended cooking is a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires.

As apartment managers, there are some “no tech” and “low tech” steps you can take to help your tenants stay on the safe side of cooking. Simple posters, flyers or payment inserts can raise cooking safety awareness in your buildings. Fire departments regularly come across people who do not know how to put out a small grease fire by putting a lid on the pan and turning off the heat.

- Encourage residents to turn on a **timer** every time they turn on the stove.
- With credit to Marion Lee and country singers, remind everyone to “**Stand by your pan!**”
- Promote the notion of having a **lid** ready every time food is frying.
- Keep combustible materials such as potholders, towels, and pizza boxes away from the burners.
- Never use the oven or “unused” top burners as a storage area. Kitchen fires can start when the controls are accidentally turned on.

- Help your staff and residents better understand the destructive reality of using water on a grease fire by watching the story of Willie Mae Coleman as shared by St. Paul Fire Department at [this link](#)
- For stoves with range hoods, review the specifications for individual fire suppression canisters at [www.stovetopfirestop.com](http://www.stovetopfirestop.com).
- Consider investing in Safe-T-Element burners that increase energy efficiency as they essentially eliminate stovetop fires. Review data and demonstrations at [www.pioneeringtech.com](http://www.pioneeringtech.com).
- Reduce the chance of an unmonitored kitchen fire by replacing ionization smoke detectors with the **photoelectric** kind. Nuisance alarms are triggered more frequently by ionization detectors placed too close to kitchens. These have prompted tenants to remove batteries and increased the odds of a non-working detector when they really needed one. For more information on photoelectric detectors, [check out this video](#), a lesson we featured in our November 2012 "Apartment Safety Notes".

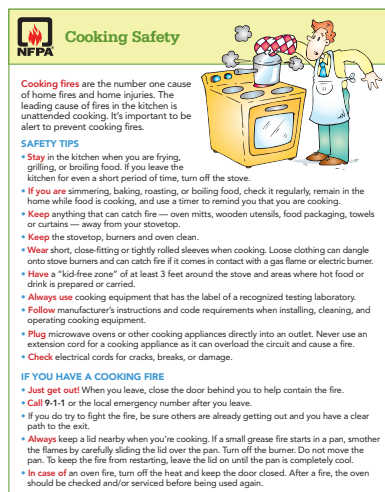


Spokane Fire Department thanks you for keeping cooking safety on your front burner all year long!

## NFPA Cooking Safety Posters

NFPA, the sponsoring agency for National Fire Prevention Week, has two cooking safety posters you can download for your residents:

[Click here to download Poster #1](#)  
and  
[Here for Poster #2](#)



You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at [jdoherty@spokanefire.org](mailto:jdoherty@spokanefire.org) or by calling 509.625.7058



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