



## Cooking Safety Tips

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on what you are doing.

### Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when food is cooking. Turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- Move appliance cords away from hot surfaces where they can melt or burn from excess heat. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) protection anywhere that water may come into contact with electricity, such as kitchen countertops.
- Keep appliances away from the sink and other sources of water.

### Cooking with Children

Holiday cooking and baking can be a fun activity for the whole family, as long as you remember to follow a few simple steps to ensure the safety of the littlest holiday chefs:

- Watch children closely in the kitchen.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from cooking appliances.
- Never leave a child unsupervised while cooking or when an electric or gas stove is within reach.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so that children cannot pull them down. Use the back burners on the cooktop when possible.
- If you are cooking on the stove or in the microwave, do not hold your child as you remove items from these appliances.