

Kitchen Fire Fact Sheet:

For many, cooking is an enjoyable part of the day in which you can be creative and provide the centerpiece for gathering with friends and loved ones. Unfortunately, electrical appliances add a dash of danger when not properly monitored and maintained.

Did you know..?

- *Two-thirds of U.S. households cook at least one hot meal a day.*
- *Sundays have the highest incidence of home cooking equipment fires, however cooking equipment fires that occurred on Saturdays resulted in more fatalities.*
- *Little change has been seen in the frequency of reported cooking fires in the past five years.*

How much do you know about kitchen safety?

Test your knowledge with the following True or False statements.

1. True or False? Ovens are the most common appliance involved in kitchen fires.
2. True or False? Baking most often results in fire when the cook time exceeds 60 minutes.
3. True or False? Food is always the source of ignition in kitchen fires resulting from microwave use.
4. True or False? You should vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to prevent potentially dangerous dirt build-up.
5. True or False? Most kitchen fire injuries are the result of attempts to fight the fire.

Answers:

1. False. Ranges account for the majority of total reported home structure fires involving cooking equipment and even larger shares of associated civilian deaths and civilian injuries. However, many of these fires are avoidable. The most common cause of these fires is equipment being left unattended while in use.
2. False. Fire began in the first 15 minutes for 88% of the fires resulting from baking. Be sure to clean your appliances before use to minimize your fire risk.
3. False. One in every six of microwave oven home structure fires cited appliance housing or casing as the item first ignited. Follow manufacturers' instructions and code requirements when installing and operating cooking equipment.
4. True. In 2010, an estimated 1,680 reported U.S. home structure fires involving refrigerators, freezers, or ice makers. Keeping the coils clear of debris will reduce your risk.
5. True. Three out of every five reported non-fatal home cooking injuries occurred when the victims tried to fight the fire themselves. When in doubt, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. After you leave, call 9-1-1 or the fire department from a cell phone or a neighbor's telephone.

