



# COOKING FIRES ARE THE #1 CAUSE OF HOME FIRES



Do Not Let Your Dinner Turn Into This!



**These fires above started as a result of unattended cooking right here in Chesterfield County**

## You can prevent cooking fires

- ◆ Be alert! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking
- ◆ According to the U.S. Fire Administration, on average, cooking fires result in 110 deaths, 3,525 injuries, and \$309 million in property loss every year
- ◆ Stay in the kitchen while cooking on the stovetop. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the burner
- ◆ While you are cooking in the oven, check it regularly. Always remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer as a reminder
- ◆ If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop
- ◆ Keep all combustibles — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop

## Take these steps to keep your family safe

- ◆ Never use water on a grease fire. Instead, keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby: Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid or baking sheet over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled
- ◆ Get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire
- ◆ Call 9-1-1
- ◆ For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed

**For more information, contact Chesterfield Fire & Life Safety (804) 748-1426, [www.chesterfield.gov/fire](http://www.chesterfield.gov/fire)**