



## Burn Awareness Week

Sponsored by the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund

Stay Safe in the Kitchen! - Grade 6 / 7

### Prevent Grease and Stove Fires in the Kitchen!

Every person in this country will experience two kitchen fires in their lifetime. Hopefully, you will avoid a fire in your kitchen. Those of you who *are* prepared and know how to respond to this kind of an emergency can minimize damage. When a kitchen fire strikes, know what to do! The most common kitchen fire starts in a pan on top of the stove. When it happens, don't try to move it. In doing so, you will only increase the chances of spreading the flames.

#### How to extinguish a grease fire in a pan

With an oven mitt protecting your hand try to extinguish the fire in the pan by slowly sliding the lid over the pan. By sliding the lid on top of the pan, you cut off the oxygen to the fire and the fire will die. Once this has been done, turn the burner off to remove the heat source. **CAUTION:** Under no circumstances should you attempt to put out a fire in a pan on the stove by using water. Doing so will only increase the intensity of the fire, causing possible injury to yourself or spreading flame to other portions of the room.



**Oven Fire** - Close the oven door. In most cases this will cut off the oxygen and smother the fire. Turn off the oven to remove the heat source. Keep the oven door closed.

**Microwave Oven Fire** - Keep the door closed and push the stop switch. Never use metal such as spoons or foil in microwave ovens. It can spark and cause a fire.

With all fires, call 9-1-1 or your community's local emergency number to ensure your safety. Regular cleaning of kitchen appliances is important. The stove, oven, microwave and range hood should be kept free of grease. Both grease and oil are flammable liquids.

**Fire Extinguishers** - Most kitchen fires can be put out quickly if an adequate home fire extinguisher is available and used correctly. Know how to use the extinguisher properly: be within effective range to reach the fire; pull the release pin on the fire extinguisher; aim the extinguisher at the base of the fire; use a sweeping pattern, move the extinguisher back and forth. If the fire extinguisher does not put out the fire or if one is not available, you should alert the fire department immediately by calling 9-1-1.

**Kitchen Safety** - Never leave the kitchen unattended while cooking in an open pan on the stove or while using the broiler in the oven.

**ACTIVITY:** Create a Kitchen Safety Poster from the information that you have learned about kitchen and grease fires. Take your poster home and put on your refrigerator.



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