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This year’s theme, for Fire Prevention Week, “**Prevent Kitchen Fires**”, focuses on spreading the word that more fires start in the kitchen than in any other part of the home and how to keep cooking fires from starting in the first place.

### **Be Fire-Safe in the Kitchen**

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop. By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

1. Stay in the kitchen when frying food or cooking with oil or grease.
2. Never cook when you are tired.
3. To put out a pan fire, slide a lid over the pan. Turn off the stove and leave the pan covered to let the pan cool.
4. To put out an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
5. If you have a fire and it does not go out, get out of the home and call 9-1-1.
6. Keep things that can burn away from the stove.
7. Keep kids at least three feet from the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

During Fire Prevention Week we recommend all households to practice their home fire escape plan. It is important to have a home fire escape plan that prepares your family to think fast and get out quickly when the smoke alarm sounds. Plan to participate in Fire Prevention Week activities. For more information on Fire Prevention Week go to [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org)

Every home in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm on every level and outside all sleeping areas. Every month, test your smoke alarms, using the alarm test button. Change your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks each spring and fall.

**ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!**

### **Tips for Safe Winter Heating – Flue Fires can lead to house fires!**

#### **Inspect and Clean your Chimney Regularly**

The Ontario Fire Code requires homeowners to maintain the safety of their chimneys and inspect them once a year. Your chimney could have a problem you cannot see. If in doubt, consult a WETT certified chimney sweep.

#### **Check for Creosote**

Creosote can form quickly and is a major cause of chimney fires. Check chimney and flue pipes often and clean when necessary – never let creosote or soot build up. Warm weather, cold weather may result in quicker creosote buildup.

#### **Check the Chimney Cap for Blockages**

A cap and screen should be installed on top of all metal and masonry chimneys. If you have a spark screen around the chimney cap, inspect it regularly for blockage.

#### **Watch for Smoke Coming into the Room**

This could indicate a blockage in the chimney or a faulty damper control mechanism. Check it out!

#### **Regularly Check for Signs of Problems**

Your heating appliance, flue pipes and chimney can deteriorate over time. Look for corrosion or rust stains on the outer shell of a metal chimney and check for bulges or corrosion in its liner. Loose bricks, crumbling mortar, broken liners, dark stains or white powder indicate problems with masonry chimneys. These should be fixed immediately by a qualified mason.

**Place ashes in proper metal container with lid and dispose of in a safe place.**

Visit the National Fire Protection Association website [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org) and the township website [www.carlowmayo.ca](http://www.carlowmayo.ca) for helpful fire safety tips.

**And remember...**

**If you see fire or have an emergency, call 9-1-1 to connect you with ALL emergency services.**

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