

Southern Manatee Fire & Rescue District Newsletter

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Recently, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue has responded to a few calls in the District. The calls involved the possibility of potential fires due to unsafe practices that are preventable. Please take a moment of your time to read these important safety tips that may save your life.

Stove Top and Oven Fires

Most home fires start in the kitchen. Kitchen fires are the #1 cause for home fires in the United States. You can easily prevent these types of fires by using caution from the time you turn on the stove or oven until you have shut it off.

Here are a few safety tips to help you keep safe and avoid starting a fire:

- Keep your stove top or oven clean. Grease and food particles can start a fire that spreads quickly.
- Always stay in the kitchen when boiling, frying, grilling or broiling food.
- **Do not store anything in the oven or broiler.** There should be no storage in a gas stove. The pilot light is always burning and may start items stored in the oven or broiler on fire. Electric stoves may use the bottom drawing as a warming oven and were not designed to be used for storage. Storing items in these drawers will start a fire.
- **Do not store anything on the stove top.** Remember to keep oven mitts, wooden spoons, towels, paper or plastic packaging away from your stove. They can catch on fire and spread to the cabinets, walls and curtains. Knobs may be accidentally turned on and start a fire.



Microwave Oven Safety

The microwave oven is a familiar appliance in homes across America. They can quickly heat up a meal, defrost tonight's dinner or pop some really good popcorn. But the microwave oven can easily burn if not used properly. Here are a few safety tips to prevent fires and burns:

- ✓ Plug the microwave directly into a wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- ✓ Make sure the microwave is at a safe height and easy to reach for all users.
- ✓ Open the door slowly and away from your face. The heating process may make hot steam that can burn.
- ✓ Use only microwave safe containers or dishes when heating food.
- ✓ Never use aluminum foil or metal in a microwave oven.
- ✓ If you have a fire in a microwave oven, leave the door closed. Turn it off and unplug it from the wall.

Did you know?

If you were a firefighter in the early 1800's chances are you had a beard. A long, bushy type of a beard. It was thought that if a firefighter dipped the ends of his beard in a pail of water, put the ends in his mouth and breathed through them, it would mitigate the effects of the smoke.

They believed the hairs would act as a filter and allow only clean air to pass into the lungs.

