

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit

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### Preventing Kitchen Fires

**Camino** - Did you know that 42% of house fires in the USA are caused by kitchen fires, i.e. cooking equipment such as your stove or oven, primarily because food is left unattended while cooking. These fires account for 38% of fire injuries and 15% of fire deaths in the home and result in \$794 million in direct property damage. "The most disturbing part is that the majority of these fires are completely preventable" says CAL FIRE's Amador-El Dorado-Sacramento Unit Chief Kelly Keenan who adds "all it takes is just a few minutes of inattentiveness and your home is up in flames, yes it can happen that quickly and it can happen to you."

#### Kitchen Fire Safety Tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a few minutes, turn off the stove or oven.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, *stay in the home*, and use a timer to remind you.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible to prevent them from grabbing a handle and burning or scalding themselves.
- It is best to have a "child and pet free zone" in your kitchen but if they must be there, keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove/oven/microwave.

"You can buy a timer on a lanyard or on a belt clip for about \$10 to \$15 dollars so you can bring the timer with you so you won't forget about cooking food. It is cheap insurance to prevent a costly and possibly deadly home fire" say Chief Keenan. For more information on fire and life safety, please visit our website at

[www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).