

National Fire Safety Campaign Monthly Briefing Pack February – Cooking Fire Safety

Shrove Tuesday:
13 February 2018

Valentine's Day:
14 February 2018



Home Office



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

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1. Summary

The theme for February will be cooking fire safety. Each year, more accidental fires in the home are caused by cooking than anything else. Cooking-related fires tend to result in the most non-fatal casualties and the second most fatalities (behind smoking products) so the importance of promoting cooking fire safety messages cannot be overestimated.



Dates to note

Shrove Tuesday (and possibly Valentine's Day!) offer the opportunity to promote cooking and other fire safety messages.



2. Cooking fire safety messages

Cooking fire safety covers a range of issues, from not leaving it unattended through to electrical issues. This highlights lots of different messages which need to be tailored appropriately to activity and audiences. Having multiple working smoke alarms and clear escape plans remains of high importance.

Cooking safely

- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking on the hob. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – so they don't get knocked off the stove.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.
- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking – take pans off the heat or turn hobs down to avoid risk.



Take care with electrics

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

Deep fat frying

- Take care when cooking with hot oil – it sets alight easily.
- Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it doesn't splash.
- If the oil starts to smoke – it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- Use a thermostat controlled electric deep fat fryer. They can't overheat.



What to do if a pan catches fire:

- Don't take any risks. Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so. Never throw water over it.
- Don't tackle the fire yourself – Get Out, Stay Out, Call 999.



3. Dates in February

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day) – 13 February

Shrove Tuesday marks the day before the first day of Lent – the season of fasting and prayer, observed by followers of many Christian denominations. Traditionally, Pancake Day is therefore the last day of eating ingredients such as sugar, fat and eggs – particularly when combined in pancakes. Nowadays, it's seen by many as a good reason to eat pancakes!

With frying being on people's mind on Pancake Day, it provides an opportunity to promote cooking fire safety messages. The increase in kitchen activity, with all the family taking part, can increase the fire risk. So as well as providing an opportunity for safe cooking messages, there is also a pressing reason to issue a safety reminder.

Valentine's Day – 14 February

Although Valentine's Day may provide only a tenuous link to cooking fire safety, it does provide the chance to be creative. In recent years, many fire and rescue services have used pun-filled headlines to promote fire safety tips, encouraging people to protect their loved ones with smoke alarms, or make sure that a romantic night for two doesn't end in disaster.

<http://news.warwickshire.gov.uk/blog/2016/02/12/%EF%BB%BFset-hearts-on-fire-this-valentines-day-not-your-home/>

<http://www.chesterchronicle.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/cheshire-fire-service-issue-valentines-10881330>

'Flee – Hot Date', the video produced by FireAngel in partnership with London Fire Brigade and which is available to all fire and rescue authorities, demonstrates the danger of not being careful when cooking and using candles on Valentine's Day. It's a video perfect for promoting on social media.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g07Lkbbe5rA>

4. Draft Social Media Posts

Draft tweets and hashtags that you may wish to use are below:

Shrove Tuesday

- *This #PancakeDay be flipping careful. More fires start in the kitchen than anywhere else in the home. #FireSafety*
- *If cooking oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool #FrySafe #FireSafety*
- *Do not leave cooking unattended and avoid children being alone in the kitchen when cooking on the hob #FireSafety*

Valentine's Day

- *Don't remember Valentine's Day for the wrong reason! FireSafety#*
- *Cooking for a #HotDate this Valentine's? Take extra care to stop your date going up in flames like in this video - <http://bit.ly/1Xldmo>*

Cooking fire safety

- *Cooking fires make up half of all accidental fires in the home in England #FireSafety*
- *Fires from cooking appliances account for over half of all fire injuries in the home #FireSafety*
- *Take care when cooking with oil – it sets alight easily #FrySafe #FireSafety*
- *If a pan catches fire don't take any risks. Turn the heat off if it's safe to do so. NEVER throw water over it #FrySafe #FireSafety*
- *Keep matches and saucepan handles out of the reach of children #FireSafety*
- *Take care if you're cooking while wearing loose clothing – it can easily catch fire #FireSafety*
- *Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob #FireSafety*
- *Double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking #FireSafety*
- *Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls #FireSafety*
- *Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build up of fat and grease can easily lead to a fire #FireSafety*
- *Don't tackle the fire yourself – get out, stay out, call 999 #FireSafety*

Winter fire safety

- *Even if you've been drenched by torrential rain, don't use portable heaters to dry your clothes. #FireSafety*
- *Freezing weather getting you down? If you're using heaters to warm you up, make sure they're safe and away from materials that might burn. #FireSafety*

5. National Fire Safety Campaign Portal

The National [Fire Safety Campaign Portal](#) hosts all of the national fire safety campaign artwork and material and is available to all fire and rescue practitioners. All FRSs have one shared login. If you are unsure of your login details, please contact Laura Udeh – laura.udeh@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

National Fire Safety Campaign

Here you will find all the material for the national fire safety campaign. Check out the "National Advertising Showcase to see our picks of the best. Don't forget to check the "Monthly Communications Breifing" area regularly for all the new stuff



2016 Partner Pack



Archive



Brand



Fillers



Kids



Leaflets



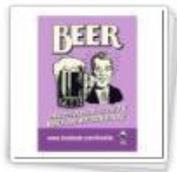
Monthly Campaigns



National advertising campaign



Photos & Icons



Posters



Social

6. Template Press Notice – Cooking Fire Safety

During the February half term, many children across **[the County/region]** will be spending more time in the kitchen.

But whether they're lending a hand or simply seeking a snack, it's important to make sure that they know the hazards of a hot hob.

So as part of the national fire safety campaign, **[Local FRS]** is encouraging parents and carers to make any kitchen activities a chance for kids to learn about cooking safety.

[FRS spokesperson] said: "There are lots of creative ways to teach kids about cooking fire safety. And, it's absolutely vital that they know what to do if the worst should happen.

"So alongside the melting, mixing and making, why not take the chance to pass on your fire safety knowhow? Test your smoke alarms as part of the activity. And remember, never leave a child alone with a hot hob, and help keep them safe by moving matches and saucepan handles out of their reach."

And the kids don't have to be in the kitchen to change the way you work – distraction while cooking is a main cause of fire call-outs right across the country.

[FRS spokesperson] continued: "Half of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen - often because of distractions like phone calls or family. So whatever happens elsewhere in your home, always make sure you have one eye on the hob or oven."

The national fire safety campaign's top tips for staying safe in the kitchen are:

- Take care if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking. Take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- If a pan catches fire, don't take any risks – Get Out, Stay Out, and Call 999.
- Double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking.
- Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob.
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – this can easily catch fire.
- Avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone when cooking. Keep matches and saucepan handles out of their reach to keep them safe.
- Take care with electrics - keep leads and appliances away from water and place grills and toasters away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep your equipment clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.
- Don't cook after drinking alcohol.
- Hot oil can catch fire easily - be careful that it doesn't overheat.
- Never throw water on a chip pan fire.
- In the event of a fire, have an escape plan in place.
- Don't take risks by tackling a fire. **Get out, stay out and call 999.**

- Make sure you have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and test them regularly.

– ENDS –

7. Template Press Release – Pancake Day

Traditionally Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of Lent, when many people throughout the country make pancakes, before they begin a 40 day fast. When you are distracted by the haunting image of a delicious, warm pancake sprinkled with lemon juice and sugar, fire safety may not be at the forefront of your mind! However, accidental fires caused by cooking with oil or frying can be devastating, with a very high proportion of such fires resulting in injuries.

[FRS spokesperson] of **[Local]** Fire and Rescue Service, said:

“Making pancakes can be lots of fun for the whole family and they certainly can be delicious. However, over half of all accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen so please take care, especially when cooking with hot oil.”

[FRS spokesperson] offers the following safety tips

When using a frying pan or cooking with hot oil, remember:

- Never leave the pan unattended when the heat is switched on
- Do NOT move the pan if it is on fire!

If the pan does catch fire:

- Don't take any risks. Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so. Never throw water over it.
- Don't tackle the fire yourself.
- GET OUT, STAY OUT, CALL 999.

“And when you have finished cooking, make sure that all the appliances are turned off and the cooking area is clear,” added **[FRS spokesperson]**.

A working smoke alarm will greatly increase your chances of escaping unharmed. Have an escape plan and follow it - know exactly which way you will leave your home and know where you will go.

Stay safe, and make sure your smoke alarms work properly:

- Test your smoke alarms regularly.
- Change the battery every year (unless it's a 10 year alarm).
- Clean it out properly at least twice every year, by vacuuming the inside.

For further advice on fire safety contact your **[Local Fire and Rescue Service]** on **XXXXXX**.