



Home Office



**NFCC**  
National Fire  
Chiefs Council

# National Fire Safety Campaign Monthly Briefing Pack July – Cooking Fire Safety



## Contents

<b>1. Summary</b>	<b>3</b>
- <i>Cooking fires</i>	3
- <i>School holidays</i>	3
- <i>Barbecues</i>	3
<b>2. Cooking Fire Safety Messages</b>	<b>4</b>
- <i>Cooking safely</i>	4
- <i>Take care with electrics</i>	4
- <i>Deep fat frying</i>	4
- <i>Barbecues</i>	5
<b>3. Suggested Local PR Activity</b>	<b>6</b>
- <i>Press notice</i>	6
- <i>Celebrity endorsement</i>	6
- <i>Competitions</i>	6
- <i>Community events</i>	6
- <i>Holiday clubs/camps</i>	6
- <i>Partnerships</i>	6
<b>4. Draft Social Media Posts</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. National Fire Safety Campaign Portal</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. Cooking Fire Safety Template Press Release</b>	<b>9</b>

## **1. Summary**

This July briefing pack provides you with information about fire safety activities for July 2018, under the theme cooking fire safety.

### ***Cooking fires***

Fires from cooking appliances have consistently resulted in around half of all accidental fires in the home in England. The 2016/17 fire statistics report that such fires resulted in 16 fatalities and around half of all non-fatal casualties (2,360 of 4,751).



### ***School holidays***



With children on school holidays, both an opportunity and a problem are presented. With children around, parents/carers are able to cook with children and teach them cooking fire safety messages. However, it is important to be aware that children may provide a distraction when cooking.

### ***Barbecues***

You may wish to specifically promote barbecue safety messages as they fit nicely within both cooking and summer fire safety. You may also wish to include barbecue messages on carbon monoxide, with incidents being reported of barbecues being used in enclosed spaces resulting in CO poisoning.

## 2. Cooking Fire Safety Messages

Cooking fire safety covers a range of issues, from leaving it unattended through to electrical issues and even barbecues. This presents a range of messaging and the need for tailoring of messaging and activity to the relevant audiences. Obviously, having sufficient detection equipment and 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 them down to avoid risk.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.



### ***Take care with electrics***

- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water – they make a lethal combination.
- Make sure electrical cords are in good working condition and secured over the counter top.
- Never overload electrical sockets
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Never try to get toast that is stuck out of a toaster while it is plugged in, and especially not with a metal knife as there are often live parts inside
- 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.

## **Barbecues**

There is no better time to talk about barbecue safety than in the summer months!

Barbecue messages include:

- Enjoy yourself, but don't drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue or any cooking!
- Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.
- Follow the safety instructions provided with disposable barbecues.
- Never use a barbecue indoors.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue; use only recognised lighters or starter fuels on coal.
- Never leave a barbecue or any cooking unattended.
- Make sure your barbecue is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- Empty ashes onto bare garden soil, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. If they're hot, they can melt the plastic and start a fire.



### Gas barbecues

- Never store gas cylinders under the stairs – if there is a fire they might explode and block your escape route.
- Store gas cylinders outside, away from direct sunlight and frost.
- Take care when turning bottled gas barbecues on and off.
- Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- After cooking, turn the gas supply off first and then the barbecue control. This will stop any gas from leaking.
- If you suspect a leak, turn off the gas cylinder and try brushing soapy water around all joints, watching for bubbles.
- Make sure all joints are tightened, safe and secure.
- Change gas cylinders outdoors or in a well ventilated area.

Gas Safe Register has a dedicated section on barbecue safety on their website – <https://www.gassaferegister.co.uk/bbq> (you will leave this site)

### **3. Suggested Local PR Activity**

Local engagement activity and PR events can boost the delivery of the message in your area.

#### ***Press notice***

To support the campaign, we have provided a template press notice – on page 10 – to assist with local PR and media opportunities. The press notice can, of course, be tailored as necessary to reflect local priorities, activities and messages.

#### ***Celebrity endorsement***

You may wish to organise a campaign around staying safe in the kitchen, fronted by a local celebrity or spokesperson, possibly one who has young children. They could donate/create a recipe for cooking with children that could include fire safety tips.

#### ***Competition***

There could be an associated competition for local people to create their own recipes, potentially with additional messages on healthy eating. The recipes could appear on your local website or could be placed in the media alongside key statistics and tips on cooking safely in the kitchen. This could be promoted through community events...

#### ***Community events***

With the warmer weather bringing a range of community events, there will be plenty of opportunity to promote cooking fire safety messages. Community events, village fairs, county shows and festivals offer interaction with a range of people and families and the chip pan demo provides a very visual, crowd-pleasing focus!

You may also wish to organise events at local supermarkets as a good way to distribute leaflets and information/recipes on healthier cooking options, i.e. oven chips to local residents as an alternative to using chip pans.



#### ***Holiday clubs/camps***

With many children attending school holiday clubs and camps, the summer holidays provide an excellent opportunity to engage with lots of kids in a fun environment. These clubs may have a cooking/baking session and a visit from the local fire station with some kitchen safety tips is likely to be a welcome addition to the itinerary.

#### ***Partnerships***

Retail outlets for barbecue and camping equipment may provide a channel for appropriate messages, through displays or leaflets in shops targeting customers.

## **4. Draft Social Media Posts**

The national fire safety campaign draft tweets and hashtags which you may wish to use are below:

- Keep the kids entertained this #SummerHoliday! Why not bake something together and share some cooking fire safety tips? #CookSafe #FireSafety.
- In hot weather light clothing can be such a relief! Just take care to keep loose clothes away from the cooker #CookSafe #FireSafety #BeFireSafe.
- With kids running around over the #SummerHolidays, keep your kitchen safe. Ensure cooking & matches are out of reach! #CookSafe #FireSafety.
- Did you know cooking causes over 50 per cent of all home fires? Take care in the kitchen and never leave cooking unattended. #CookSafe #FireSafety.
- Between the sun, fun and beers, remember how dangerous barbecues can be. #FireSafety #BBQSafety
- If you have a #BBQ and it starts to rain, don't take it inside or in a tent. BBQs in enclosed spaces can poison and kill #CarbonMonoxide #SilentKiller.
- Got a fave #BBQ dish? Burgers? Kebabs? Bananas?! If you're firing one up, keep it away from sheds, fences and trees! #BBQSafety #FireSafety.
- Enjoy yourself, but don't drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue #FireSafety.
- Lighting up the #BBQ this weekend? Keep a bucket of water, sand or garden hose nearby for emergencies. #FireSafety #BBQSafety.
- Having a #BBQ? Don't leave it unattended - not only is it a fire risk, you also don't want to serve your guests burnt steak!
- If you're out in the #GreatOutdoors, only light open fires and BBQs in safe designated areas. #Thinkwildfire #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.

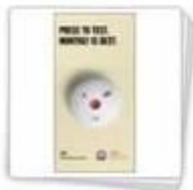
There is a single login for you to access the Portal:

- Username:
- Password:

Please contact Laura Udeh – [laura.udeh@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:laura.udeh@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) if you have any queries.

### 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 pick of the best. Don't forget to check the "Monthly Communications Briefing" area regularly for all the new stuff.



2018 National advertising campaign



Archive



Brand



Fillers



Kids



Leaflets



Monthly Campaigns



Partner Pack 2016



Photos & Icons



Posters



Social

## **6. Cooking Fire Safety Template Press Notice**

### **Safety first for summer cooking**

With the summer holidays fast approaching, 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 asking parents and carers to make any kitchen activities a chance for kids to learn this summer.

**[FRS spokesperson]** said: "From bake-offs to barbecues, there are lots of creative ways to teach kids about cooking fire safety this summer. 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 in the summer - 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 the 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 this summer 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 - leads and appliances away from water and place grills and 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.**
- Get a smoke alarm and test it weekly.

**– ENDS –**