

Kitchen Fires

Here are some tips on ways to avoid having a fire break out in a kitchen:

- Don't store things in the oven or on or near the stove top.
- Don't wear loose clothing when cooking.
- Turn pot and pan handles around. This will prevent children and others from grabbing or bumping into them.
- Turn the burners off if you have to leave the kitchen.
- Keep fire extinguishers near the kitchen exit so you can decide whether to use them or leave the area.

If a fire breaks out you can take the following steps:

- In an oven or microwave, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to smother flames.
- In a pot or pan, turn off the heat and cover the pot with a lid or cookie sheet. Leave the pot covered for at least half an hour.
- Never try to douse an oil fire with water. It will make the fire spread.
- Call 911.

Source: Minneapolis Star Tribune "Burned by bad kitchen habits," 08/15/10.