

September 11, 2013

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 6-12, and this year's theme is "Prevent Kitchen Fires." The Burleson fire marshal's office and the fire department will be visiting students during October to talk about how to do just that.

In 2011, the Burleson Fire Department responded to seven kitchen fires. In 2012, the number was down to two. According to the National Fire Protection Association, two out of every five home fires start in the kitchen. Unattended cooking was a factor in 34 percent of reported home cooking fires. Ranges accounted for 58 percent of home cooking fire incidents while ovens accounted for 16 percent.

"Everyone should have a fire extinguisher located in their kitchen so that it is accessible, but don't mount it under the stove," Burleson Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton said.

The U.S. Fire Administration said it is a recipe for serious injury or even death to wear loose clothing (especially hanging sleeves), walk away from a cooking pot on the stove, or leave items that can catch fire (potholders, paper towels) around the stove. Other USFA tips include:

- Enforce a three-foot kid-free zone around the stove;
- Use the back burners on the stove and turn pot handles away from the stove's edge;
- If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (wear an oven mitt), turn off the burner, then leave the lid on the pan until the pan is completely cool;
- In the case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent the flames from burning you or your clothing;
- If you have a fire in the microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed, unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet, and do not open the door until the fire is completely out;

- After a fire, both ovens and microwaves should be checked and/or serviced before being used again.

To learn more about Fire Prevention Week, go to [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org). For more tips on how to safely use barbecue grills, propane grills, protecting children from scalds and burns, preventing scalds and burns, installing and using microwave ovens safely, and more, go to the USFA/FEMA website at <http://tinyurl.com/3rl3agr>. To schedule a visit from the fire marshal or firefighters, call the fire marshal's office at 817-426-9174 or 817-426-9175 or email [ssingleton@burlesontx.com](mailto:ssingleton@burlesontx.com) or [dbutler@burlesontx.com](mailto:dbutler@burlesontx.com).