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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Fire Department urges caution following three kitchen fires**

The Springfield Fire Department is urging residents to use caution in the kitchen, following three cooking fires in as many days in the City. In two of the fires, a pan caught fire after being left unattended on the stove. In another fire, a burner was left on and caused nearby combustibles to catch fire. In one of the incidents, a resident suffered first and second degree burns to the torso, arms and face, after trying to carry the burning pan from the stove to the sink.

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries in the United States. The Springfield Fire Department recommends you never leave the kitchen unattended while cooking on the stovetop. If you are using the oven, remain in the home while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking. Keep anything that can catch fire - such as oven mitts, paper towels and food packaging - away from your stovetop. If you do have a cooking fire, follow these tips:

Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and learn how to use it! For training opportunities, contact the Springfield Fire Department at 417-864-1500.

If you do choose to use the extinguisher, make sure everyone else is evacuating the home and someone has called 9-1-1.

When in doubt, get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

For media only: For more information, contact Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at 417-864-1699 or [cerwin@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cerwin@springfieldmo.gov).