

Fire Prevention Awareness

Cooking Safety – Part 2

The best way to avoid having a fire in your cooking area is to never leave your cooking unattended. However, if you do find yourself dealing with a fire in the kitchen, here are some helpful tips:

✓ Keep a lid nearby.

Sliding a metal, non-glass pan lid or cookie sheet over a stovetop fire can quickly and easily smother the fire. You'll want to use an oven mitt while handling the lid or sheet though, as the metal can get hot in a hurry!

✓ Turn off the heat source.

If you can do so safely, turning off the heat to the stovetop burner will help to eliminate the heat source for the fire. With no heat source and limited fuel to burn (aka food or grease in a pot or pan), the fire will eventually die out. This option only applies if the cooking area is kept clean; if there are flammable items nearby, or the stovetop area is dirty with grease and/or food debris, then the fire could spread.

✓ Use your fire extinguisher.

If you know how to safely use a fire extinguisher, this can be a sure-fire way (pun intended!) to put out your stovetop fire. Here at Messiah, there is a fire extinguisher in every on-campus apartment and in all dorm lounge/kitchen areas. Make sure you know where your extinguisher is and how to use it *before* you need it!

✓ Know which kitchen ingredients will help...or make things worse.

With the right amount of **baking soda** or **salt**, you can extinguish your stovetop fire fairly easily. Be careful though...using water, flour, baking powder, or sugar can cause the fire to flare up and spread, making things significantly worse! [Check out this short video from the Rainbow International restoration company for more info.](#)



Fire Prevention Awareness

Cooking Safety – Part 2

The best way to avoid having a fire in your cooking area is to never leave your cooking unattended. However, if you do find yourself dealing with a fire in the kitchen, here are some helpful tips:

✓ For oven fires...

...keep the oven door closed, and turn off the heat source to the oven (if you can do so safely). Turning the oven off and keeping the door closed will slowly eliminate the heat source for the fire and will deprive the fire of the oxygen it needs to sustain itself.

✓ For microwave fires...

...keep the microwave door closed, and unplug the microwave (if you can do so safely). Unplugging the microwave and keeping the door closed will slowly eliminate the heat source for the fire and will deprive the fire of the oxygen it needs to sustain itself.

Whether you're able to successfully put out the fire or not, **you should always call Dispatch (x6005, or 717.691.6005 via cell phone)** so that an officer from the Department of Safety can respond accordingly and document the fire.

You can also view this [short video from Howcast.com](#) for a brief recap of the above information.



**In case of an oven fire,
turn off the oven and
keep the door closed
until it is cool.**

Have the oven checked by a qualified professional before using it again.

