



INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

- State of Georgia -

NEWS RELEASE

John F. King

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COMMISSIONER KING URGES CAUTION WITH HOLIDAY COOKING

ATLANTA – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John F. King is urging Georgians to use caution while cooking this holiday season.

“Nine Georgians have perished in cooking-related fires this year. From 2014-2018, there were 16,371 cooking-related fires in Georgia,” King said. “With families across our state hosting friends and relatives this week, it is important to exercise extra caution when preparing meals.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Commissioner King suggests the following cooking safety tips to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable holiday season:

- [Never deep-fry a frozen turkey.](#) When a frozen turkey is dropped into hot oil, the ice begins to turn to steam. The rapidly expanding steam then causes the oil to boil over.
- Always set a timer when cooking, so you will not forget to turn off the range top or oven.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (i.e. potholders, towels, rags, drapes, and food packaging).
- If a pan catches fire, cover it with a lid immediately and turn off the burner. Do not fight a grease fire with water, as it may make the fire worse. Consider purchasing a fire extinguisher to keep in your kitchen.
- Wear tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can contact a burner and ignite. If this happens, remember “stop, drop and roll.” Stop where you are, cover your face with your hands, and roll over to smother the flames.
- Turn pot handles inward so they cannot be bumped and children cannot grab them.
- Never use a wet oven mitt, as it presents a scald danger if the moisture in the mitt is heated.
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home. Only fireplaces and space heaters should be used. [Click here for more information on fire safety for space heaters.](#)
- Install an adequate number of smoke alarms. The advance warning of a smoke alarm may mean the difference between life and death. So far in 2019, 66 Georgians have died in 55 residential fires. In 50 of those 55 fires, there were no working smoke alarms present. There have been 79 total deaths in Georgia fires this year.

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