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NEWS RELEASE

Game Day Meal Safety Tips

Use these safety tips while cooking for your game day gatherings

El Paso, Texas –El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public to use caution when cooking their game day meals. Practicing safety in the kitchen will ensure the game is enjoyable for everyone.

- Remember to keep children at least three feet away from the stove when food is cooking.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended while preparing food.
- While cooking, avoid loose-fitting clothing and always turn pot handles inward.
- Do not leave combustible items like potholders and hand towels on the stove.
- Have an all-purpose extinguisher nearby.
- Do not overload electrical outlets and never use electrical appliances near water.
- Be sure the kitchen is well ventilated to prevent a build-up of carbon monoxide from appliances.

Additional precautions should be taken when planning outdoor grilling activities.

- Use extreme caution when cooking on outdoor grills to prevent painful burn injuries and inhalation of smoke and gases.
- Never use gasoline in place of charcoal lighter fluid.
- Never reapply charcoal lighter fluid after the fire has started; the flames can ignite the vapors and travel up to the container causing an explosion.
- Outdoor grills should never be used in confined spaces, such as inside homes, campers or tents, or any other area that is not properly ventilated.

Lastly, the El Paso Fire Department would like to remind residents living in apartment complexes and apartment managers that charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be used under combustible balconies or within 10 feet of combustible construction.

A video demonstration of these tips is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzMBdS9YKrg>.

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