

Cooking Safety
Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers Association
&
West County Fire Departments

Unattended cooking fires and related accidents around stoves and ovens can result in devastating structure fires and serious painful burn injuries. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires and Sonoma County Fire Protection Officers urge the public to keep safety in mind when preparing holiday meals.

Cooking fires are more likely to happen on Thanksgiving than any other day of the year. Cooking equipment fires are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries. These fires account for 40% of all reported home structure fires and 36% of home civilian injuries.

It can be easy to get wrapped up in entertaining guests, but it is important to remember to monitor meal preparation closely as most cooking fires start because cooking has been left unattended. Be safe this holiday season by following these tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the home for even a short period of time, turn off the stove or oven.
- If you are simmering, baking, boiling or roasting food, check it regularly and remain in the home while food is cooking. Use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- Stay alert. Don't cook if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep things that burn – pot holders, oven mitts, paper or plastic - off your stovetop.
- Don't store things that can burn in an oven, microwave, or toaster oven.
- Clean food and grease off burners, stovetops and ovens.
- Wear clothing with sleeves that are short, close fitting, or tightly rolled up.
- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around the stove.
- Use the stove's back burners whenever possible, and turn pot handles inward to reduce the risk that pots with hot contents will be knocked over.
- Never hold a small child while cooking.
- Always keep an oven mitt and a lid nearby when you are cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are wearing the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. Do not move the pan. To keep the fire from restarting, leave the lid on until the pan is completely cool.
- In the event of a fire, when in doubt, just get out. When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire. Call 9-1-1 after you leave.

- ***Remember that 9-1-1 cell phone calls go to the Vallejo office of the California Highway Patrol. To avoid delays dial 707-565-2121 from your cell phone for all fire, medical and law emergencies in Sonoma County.***
- **Never use water to put out a cooking oil fire.**

For more information on cooking safety or other fire safety and prevention information, please contact Corinne Barclay of Sonoma County FPO's (707) 778-4468 or your local fire department.

Sonoma County Fire Prevention Officers' and the West County Fire Departments Wish
You a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Forestville Fire Protection District

New Fire Chief

On November 9th, Forestville Fire Protection District Board of Directors President Erne Ballinger announced the appointment of Forestville Fire Captain Max Ming to the Forestville Fire District Fire Chief position. He will start December 1st. As part of a cost saving Shared Fire Chief Agreement, Chief Ming will also serve as the Fire Chief of the Russian River Fire Protection District.

Prior to his appointment as the Fire Chief of Forestville, Chief Ming served as a Captain for the District for 12 years and has served the District in a variety of roles for over 27 years including time as a Volunteer Firefighter. He is a graduate of El Molino High School, has a Certificate of Completion in Fire Science from the Santa Rosa Junior College and is a California Certified Fire Officer. He lives with his two children in Forestville and is active in El Molino Project Grad and the El Molino Little League.

Both Districts are excited to welcome Chief Ming to the position of Fire Chief. He has shown outstanding dedication and experience for the position, and both Districts are confident he will lead them to new heights as he serves our communities.

Chief Ming takes over the post from Forestville Fire Chief Dan Northern, who will resume his Volunteer position with the District and assist Chief Ming in the transition. Northern has been Forestville's Fire Chief for the last 3.7 years of his 38-year fire service career.

Chief Ming will be officially sworn in at a regular Forestville Fire Protection District Board Meeting on December 13, 2011 at 6 pm. The public is welcome to attend.

Toy Drive

The 2011 Christmas Toy Drive is off to a bit of a slow start. As a reminder the Forestville Firefighters Association will be collecting toys for the Holidays again this year. Donations will go to the Forestville Giving Tree Program, Methodist Church as

well as the Toys for Tots program. Your new and unwrapped gifts may be dropped off at the Forestville Fire Station up to December 23rd. Recalled or used toys cannot be accepted.

Bodega Bay Fire Protection District

Safety Tips

The District wishes everyone a safe holiday season. Be careful placing your decorations and make sure all decorations are UL listed. Please take a few minutes to walk outside your home and make sure that you can see your address. If you cannot see it-neither can we. The numbers must be a different color than material they are mounted on.

Measure B

We are very happy to report that Measure B passed with 80% of the vote. This outstanding support reaffirms your support of the services we provide. Thank you.

Promotions

We are pleased to announce that Firefighter Paramedic David Bynum was promoted to Captain. This promotion means we are fully staffed with permanent Captains for our three crews. We have three crews of three Firefighter/EMT's, three Firefighter/Paramedics, and three Captains to cover 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Captain Bynum is our first paramedic Fire Officer in many years. The three Captains report to the Chief.

We are also pleased to announce the promotion of Louis Storzinger from part-time firefighter to full-time firefighter. Lou will report to duty on A-Shift in mid- December.

Web Site

Our website has undergone a complete transformation. Check us out at our new address: www.bbfpd.org Let us know what you think.

Toy Drive

We are collecting unwrapped toys until December 18th.

Russian River Fire Protection District

New Fire Chief

On December 1st, Russian River Fire District will welcome our new fire chief, Max Ming to our organization. Chief Ming comes to us through a sharing agreement with Forestville Fire

District, which allows both agencies to conserve costs associated with having a full-time chief.

Bucket Brigade Blood Drive

The Russian River Fire District will be hosting it's annual Bucket Brigade Blood Drive on December 13th from 3-7pm at St. Hubert's Hall, just behind the fire station in Guerneville. We hope you'll consider donating and supporting us in this annual competition among various Sonoma County fire agencies. If you're not able to attend the drive on the 13th, you can go to Blood Bank of the Redwoods and mention Russian River Fire and it will be counted.

Board Meetings

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on December 19th at 6pm at the fire station. We hope you'll consider attending.

Visit us on line at www.russianriverfire.org.

Graton Fire Protection District

Graton Fire Christmas Tree Farm: Thu-Sun 9-5

The station is done and we have thousands of trees for you to consider including pre-cut Noble & Nordman firs from a sustainable tree farm in Oregon (they are even shipped and kept in water to extend their lives). With over 5 acres of pine, fir, and spruce trees, we have lots for you to choose. The tree farm is open Thursday through Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Choose-n-Cut Trees are being sold by height, regardless of the type of tree. Pull saws and measuring sticks are available as well as help to cut, carry, trim, and net your tree. There are fire helmets and badges for the kids. Did you sponsor a seedling last year??? Come see how it has grown in our nursery. If you have further questions, please call the firehouse, 322-2091. Thank you for supporting the Graton Firefighters and helping oxygenate our community.

Toy Drive Deadline is 12/16

Our annual toy drive continues through Friday, December 16th. Each year, Graton volunteer firefighters work with Oak Grove School and local charities to determine needy families in our district. This holiday season, we are collecting new, unwrapped toys for over 30 children up to age 12. We will also accept cash donations, wrapping paper, tape... whatever you can spare. Items can be dropped off at:

- Graton Post Office
- Graton Christmas Tree Farm (Thu-Sun, 9-5)
- Andy's Produce Market

Thank you to everyone who donated last year and helped make another family's Christmas a reality. We look forward to your support again this year. Questions? Call 823-8400 x120