

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. Every year, cooking fires are responsible for more than 150,000 home fires, hundreds of deaths, and more than \$1 billion in property damage. This brochure is designed to help keep everyone in the URI community safe while cooking.

PREVENT KITCHEN FIRES

- **Never leave cooking food unattended.** Keep a close watch on food cooking on a stove top and inside both conventional and microwave ovens.
- **Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.** Loose clothing can dangle over stove burners and catch fire.
- **Turn pot handles inward** to avoid spills and **always use a potholder** to grasp handles.
- **Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away** from cooking surfaces.
- **Heat oil gradually** to avoid burns from spattering grease. Use extra caution when preparing deep-fried foods.
- **Clean cooking surfaces regularly** to prevent grease buildup. Accumulated grease can catch fire.
- **Double-check the kitchen before you leave.** Make sure all appliances are turned off.

WHEN IN DOUBT,
JUST GET OUT!



If you can't quickly and safely extinguish a fire in the kitchen:

- Exit the building right away – stay low (below smoke) and go (leave building).
- On your way out of the building knock on doors and alert other occupants.
- Activate the fire alarm system by pulling the manual pull station.
- **Call 874-2121** (off campus, call 9-1-1).
- Once out, stay out!

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A COOKING FIRE

If food is burning on the stove:

- Turn off burner. Do not move pan!
- Put on a potholder or oven mitt.
- Slide a lid over the pan or use baking soda to smother the fire.
- Leave the lid on until the pot has cooled (opening the lid will allow air to feed the fire).
- Never use water to put out a grease fire. It will cause splashing and spread the fire.

If food starts burning in a toaster or microwave:

- Turn the power off and/or unplug.
- Keep the door closed to smother the fire (if you open the door, the air will feed the flames).

If there is an oven fire:

- Turn off heat and keep door closed to contain flames.
- Have the oven serviced before you use it again.



IN CASE OF FIRE, ALWAYS CALL **874-2121** (9-1-1 IF OFF-CAMPUS)