

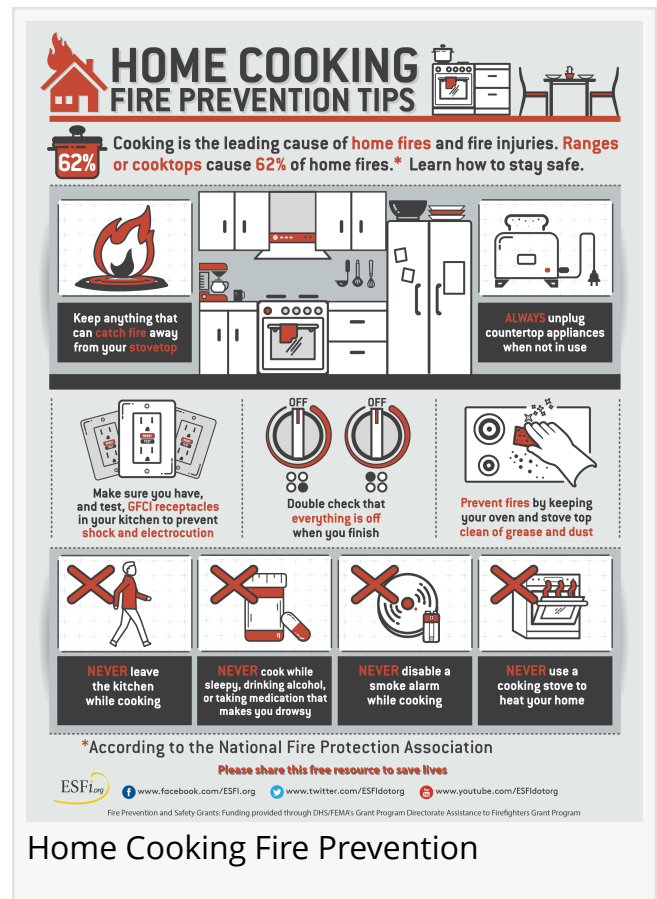
ESFI Provides Safety Tips During NFPA's Fire Prevention Week

ESFI is launching its annual campaign in support of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week, occurring from October 8th to 14th.

ARLINGTON, VA, USA, October 9, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) is launching its annual campaign in support of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Fire Prevention Week, occurring from October 8th through the 14th. The theme for Fire Prevention Week 2023, "Cooking safety starts with YOU," works to educate the public on the importance of preventing home cooking fires. ESFI is providing free resources to help consumers take proactive measures against home fires, including materials on cooking safety and how AFCIs can help prevent home fires.

"Home fires involving electrical failure or malfunction caused an estimated average of 390 civilian deaths and 1,330 civilian injuries each year from 2015 to 2019, as well as an estimated \$1.5 billion in direct property damage per year," said Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy for NFPA and Chair of ESFI's Board of Directors. "NFPA's Fire Prevention Week teaches consumers about the simple steps they can take to keep themselves safe and the long-term safety solutions they can adopt in their homes to prevent fires."

[Cooking is the leading cause](#) of home fires and fire injuries, with ranges or cooktops causing 62% of these fires. To prevent fires in the kitchen, keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop, and always unplug countertop appliances when not in use. You should also check that everything is turned off when you finish cooking. Be sure to never leave the kitchen while cooking, and never disable a smoke alarm while cooking. To further prevent fires, keep your oven and stovetop clean of grease and dust.



HOME COOKING FIRE PREVENTION TIPS

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries. Ranges or cooktops cause 62% of home fires.* Learn how to stay safe.

62%

Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop

ALWAYS unplug countertop appliances when not in use

Make sure you have, and test, GFCI receptacles in your kitchen to prevent shock and electrocution

Double check that everything is off when you finish

Prevent fires by keeping your oven and stove top clean of grease and dust

NEVER leave the kitchen while cooking

NEVER cook while sleepy, drinking alcohol, or taking medication that makes you drowsy

NEVER disable a smoke alarm while cooking

NEVER use a cooking stove to heat your home

*According to the National Fire Protection Association

Please share this free resource to save lives

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Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Funding provided through DHS/FEMA's Grant Program Directorate Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program

Home Cooking Fire Prevention

Another way to prevent home fires is by installing the safety devices required in homes by the National Electrical Code (NEC), including arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs). AFCIs are safety devices that protect your home against electrical fires caused by damaged wiring. A recent survey conducted by ESFI found that all electrical contractors noted witnessing signs of dangerous arcing when responding to AFCI-related service calls. "By installing AFCIs, you can help protect your home and your family from electrical fires," said Alan Manche, Vice President of External Affairs, North America Operations at Schneider Electric. "These devices detect hazardous arcing conditions and shut off power to affected circuits."

It is estimated that 50% of electrical fires can be prevented with proper AFCI protection. This potential reduction in fires is why the NEC requires AFCI protection for circuits serving certain areas of the home, like living rooms, bedrooms, closets, kitchens, and laundry areas. The installation of AFCI circuit breakers in your electrical panel or AFCI receptacles in accordance with the NEC will prevent home electrical fires.

For more information on preventing home electrical fires and for free resources you can share throughout your community, visit esfi.org. For more information on Fire Prevention Week, visit nfpa.org.

ABOUT ESFI

The Electrical Safety Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting electrical safety at home and the workplace. For more information, visit esfi.org.

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Brianne Deerwester
Electrical Safety Foundation

FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN

- DO:** Stay in the kitchen when cooking
- DO:** Unplug appliances when not in use
- DO:** Double-check and make sure all appliances are turned off
- DO:** Keep things away from cooktop
- DO:** Plug appliances directly into the wall
- DO:** Use GFCI outlets
- DON'T:** Never disable smoke alarms
- DON'T:** Avoid cooking when drinking, sleepy or taking meds
- DON'T:** Don't use extension cords for appliances
- DON'T:** Don't use your oven to heat your home

electrical safety FOUNDATION

Fire Safety in the Kitchen

ARC-FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS
Protecting Your Home From Fires

Home fires are more deadly and costly than ever. While the number of total fires and fire injuries are decreasing, property damage and fire deaths are on the rise. Each year arc-faults, caused by worn and inadequate wiring, overburdened circuits, outdated technology, and aging electrical systems, start more than 35,000 home fires causing over 1,130 injuries, 500 deaths, and \$1.4 billion in property damage.

Common Causes of Arc-Faults

- Damaged electrical wiring
- Wiring damaged by screws or nails
- Wiring damaged by doors
- Damaged electrical insulation
- Overheated cords under carpets or rugs
- Damaged or loose connections
- Cords and plugs damaged by furniture

Arc-fault protection is required in:

- Parlors, libraries, or dens
- Bedrooms
- Bedrooms
- Closets
- Living rooms
- Kitchens
- Family rooms
- Laundry areas

Types of arc-fault protection:

- A listed combination-type AFCI circuit breaker
- A listed outlet branch-circuit-type AFCI receptacle
- A listed outlet branch-circuit-type AFCI receptacle in combination with a listed branch-circuit overcurrent device

Please share this free resource to save lives

ESFI.org

AFCI circuit breakers and receptacles protect all downstream wiring and appliances from arc-faults. Receptacles should be installed at the first outlet box of a circuit.

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AFCIs: Protecting Your Home From Fires

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