



For Immediate Release

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Prevent Burns from Kitchen Fires

Mechanicsburg, Pa. – The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) and Safe Kid Pennsylvania (SKPA) have joined together to recognize Burn Awareness Week. This event, observed February 6-12, 2022, is a window of opportunity for organizations to share a common burn awareness and prevention message. This year’s theme is “Burning Issues in the Kitchen!”

“Cooking is the number one cause of home fires and injuries,” ATSPA CEO, Krista Brands said. SKPA State Office Coordinator, Jessica Ritter added “We know 47 percent of home fires are caused by cooking.”

What can be done to prevent a cooking fire?

- Be alert! The pandemic has presented new challenges for home fire safety. When cooking at home do not let children, home from school, or teleworking tasks distract you from monitoring your cooking.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from your stovetop.
- If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don’t use the stove or stovetop.
- Have a well-known, practiced, escape plan. Knowing what to do in case of a fire can save lives.

If a fire occurs:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
- Keep a lid nearby when you’re cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

For more information on Burn Awareness Week or preventing cooking burns, visit the American Burn Association website at <https://ameriburn.org/prevention/burn-awareness-week/>.

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The American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit organization committed to trauma prevention and mitigation through education and advocacy. Our work includes providing presentations and educational materials on many trauma prevention topics, including concussions, water safety, senior falls, bike safety, traffic safety and much more.

Safe Kids Pennsylvania is dedicated to keeping kids safe from preventable childhood injury, which is the number one cause of death among children ages 1 to 19. These injuries range from accidental falls, to poisonings, car crashes, drownings, and many more. Safe Kids Pennsylvania is one of many statewide



coalitions under Safe Kids Worldwide, and is led by the American Trauma Society, PA Division. For more information on Safe Kids PA, visit our website at <https://www.pasafekids.org/> or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/safekidspa/>.