

Bristol Fire Department Urges Bristol Residents to “Prevent Home Fires”

A pot holder too close to a lit burner or a space heater left on overnight could be all it takes to start a home fire. In fact, cooking and heating are among the leading causes of home fires in the United States, according to the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). That’s why Bristol Fire Department is teaming up with NFPA to urge Bristol residents to prevent home fires.

According to the latest research from NFPA, more than 2,855 people died in home fires in the United States in 2012, and 16,500 were injured. Fire departments responded to 480,500 home fires, which accounted for 80% of civilian deaths and 76% of injuries that year.

While the number of home fires is daunting, the good news is that many are easily preventable when residents take simple steps to increase their safety from fire. Whether it’s smoking outside the home, keeping space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, or staying in the kitchen when you are using the stovetop, there are easy things you can do to keep your home and family safe from fire during Fire Prevention Week and year round.

Keep your home safe from fire hazards by reviewing the following information and taking actions to help you “Prevent Home Fires”.

- **Cooking:** Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen, even a short period time, turn off the stove.
- **Heating:** Keep all things that can burn, such as paper, bedding or furniture, at least 3 feet away from heating equipment.
- **Electrical:** Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords; use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- **Smoking:** If you smoke, smoke outside; wherever you smoke, use deep, sturdy ashtrays.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 92 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record.