

CITY OF IDAHO FALLS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Hall
308 Constitution Way
Idaho Falls, ID 83405

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Thanksgiving Safety from the Idaho Falls Fire Department

Idaho Falls, ID: The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Cooking safety is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there's a lot of activity and people at home.

The kitchen is not the only concern for the Idaho Falls Fire Department (IFFD). While the idea of fried turkey may seem appealing, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) advises against it, stating "...the injuries and accidents that can occur by using a fryer far, far outweigh any of the benefits."

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, from 2003-2013, there have been more than 125 turkey fryer-related burns, explosions, smoke inhalations or laceration incidents reported. This is due to the substantial quantity of cooking oil used at high temperatures. Hot oil may splash or spill at any point during the cooking process. All it takes is the fryer getting jarred or tipped over.

Propane-fired turkey fryers are designed for outdoor use, particularly for Thanksgiving, at which time both rain and snow are common in our area. If rain or snow strikes exposed hot cooking oil, the result can be a splattering of the hot oil or a conversion of the rain or snow to steam, either of which can lead to burns.

"If you are planning to cook with a turkey fryer remember to only use a thawed turkey and keep the fryer at a safe distance away from your garage and house," states Chief Dave Hanneman, IFFD.

IFFD would like to offer the following cooking safety tips:

(208) 612-8122

308 Constitution Way, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

(208) 821-6321

- If you plan on having a fried turkey at your holiday table, consider seeking out a professional establishment to get your fried turkey from – grocery store, specialty food retailers and restaurants.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from the cooking areas.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in room with a lit candle.
- Test to make sure your smoke alarms are working.

Enjoy your holiday, everyone, and thank you for making fire safety a priority as you celebrate this season!

For tips on how to keep kids safe in the kitchen see the Fire Prevention tab on the left-hand side of our website at <http://bit.ly/IdahoFallsFireDept>.

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About Idaho Falls Fire Department: The mission of the Idaho Falls Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the citizens and visitors of Idaho Falls by providing the highest possible levels of service through fire prevention, public education, fire suppression, emergency medical services and mitigation of the effects of natural and man-made disasters consistent with the resources provided as desired and dictated by the citizens and elected officials of the City of Idaho Falls. The Idaho Falls Fire Department Fire Services division serves population of approximately 85,000 residents occupying approximately 250 square miles. The area includes the City of Idaho Falls and the Bonneville County Fire Protection District. The Idaho Falls Fire Department Emergency Medical Services (EMS) division serves a population of approximately 118,000 residents occupying approximately 1900 square miles. The area includes Bonneville County and portions of Bingham and Jefferson counties