*[](https://www.nfpa.org/fpw)*

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In This Issue:

**Fire Safety – In the Kitchen**

**Smoke Alarms at Home**

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| Safety Net(work)  Produced by Department of Administration Bureau of State Risk Management  Produced by Department of Administration Bureau of State Risk Management |

Safety Spotlight:

[Drive Safely Work Week](https://trafficsafety.org/road-safety-resources/public-resources/drive-safely-work-weektm-campaign/)

A close up of a camera

Description automatically generated

Workers Comp

496

Claims

FY21 YTD

[Fire Prevention Week](http://www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week)

“Keep Looking When Cooking”

Quote of the Month:

Five Minutes for Safety:

159

117

Claims

FY20 YTD YTD

Did you know cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries? Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen. Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week (FPW). FPW is observed each October in commemoration of the [Great Chicago Fire](https://youtu.be/VZhvbmqYniA), which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage.

The 2020 FPW theme this year, announced by the NFPA, is “[Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week).” According to recent NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and is responsible for nearly half of all reported home fires involving cooking equipment. Additionally, unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires, meaning home cooking fires occur most when people are not keeping a close eye on what they are cooking. The U.S. has seen a decrease in fire-related deaths in almost every major category except deaths from home cooking fires. The number of deaths is worse than they were 30 years ago, killing an average of 550 people per year. With cooking as the leading cause of both reported home fires and home fire injuries in the U.S.; cause for additional concern and caution needs to be taken during a time when people may opt to do more cooking and entertaining at home.

2020 FPW provides several resources and talking points on fire safety in the kitchen:

* [NFPA Safety Tips - Cooking Safety](https://youtu.be/Dm6UMPP2z8I)
* [NFPA Safety Tips](https://nfpa.org/Public-Education/Teaching-tools/Safety-tip-sheets)
  + [Cooking Safety Tips](https://nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx)
* [Talking Points](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/-/media/77E09FAC373543D1BC1F4AB64F433C48.ashx)
* [Family Cooking Checklist](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/FPW/Educate/2020/FPW20Checklist.ashx)

Lost Time

FY21 YTD

Lost Time

FY20 YTD

689

[](https://youtu.be/gCMxwSrz5Go)[](https://youtu.be/PcFuIEwbITA)

Consumer Safety

[United States Consumer Product Safety Commission](http://www.cpsc.gov/)

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According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, every year in the United States, about 2,000 people lose their lives in residential fires.

Additional [NFPA Statistics](https://www.nfpa.org/News-and-Research/Data-research-and-tools/Detection-and-Signaling/Smoke-Alarms-in-US-Home-Fires) to Share:

* Three out of five home fire deaths result in properties without working smoke alarms.
* More than one-third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present.
* The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

A smoke alarm is critical for the early detection of a fire in the home and could mean the difference between life and death.

The NFPA shares these important smoke alarm safety tips:

* Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
* Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
* It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound.
* Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
* Current alarms on the market employ different types of technology including multi-sensing, which could include smoke and carbon monoxide combined.
* Today’s smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions yet mitigate false alarms.
* A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least ten feet (three meters) from the stove.
* People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
* Replace all smoke alarms when they are ten years old.

<https://youtu.be/gCMxwSrz5Go>

NFPA's Dan Doofus reminds you to have enough smoke alarms in your home, test them monthly, and replace them every 10 years.

[See more NFPA videos about smoke alarms](https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Safety-equipment/Smoke-alarms/Smoke-alarm-videos).

Smoke Alarms at Home