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**NEWPORT NEWS FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**K. L. JONES, FIRE CHIEF**

***PRESS RELEASE***



Commission on  
Fire Accreditation  
International

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Public Service Announcement

**January 16, 2009-** Most cooking fires involve grease, a flammable liquid which ignites easily and burns rapidly. These fires often spread because of the homeowner's actions in trying to put out the fire. Pouring water on a grease fire will only make the fire bigger and will splatter the burning grease. The best way to put out a grease fire is to turn off the stove and smother it by using a pot lid to cover the fire area. Leave the lid on the fire for several minutes. A fire extinguisher designed for "B" type, or flammable liquid, fires can be used if you know how to properly use an extinguisher. If the fire is too large for these methods, leave immediately and call the fire department at 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.

It is even better, however, to not have a fire in the first place. Here are some fire prevention tips to keep your kitchen cooking safely:

- Keep all combustibles, like paper towels, bags, etc., away from hot appliances, including the stove.
- Remove grease frequently from stoves, broilers, vents, and other cooking appliances.
- Never leave the cooking area unattended. If you must leave briefly, take an item from the kitchen with you to remind you of what's cooking. Even better, turn the heat off while you're away from the kitchen.
- Wear tight fitting sleeves while cooking. Long flowing sleeves, like those on bathrobes or nightgowns, can easily brush against hot burners and catch on fire. If your clothes do catch on fire, "Stop, Drop, and Roll" to put the fire out.
- Keep pot and pan handles turned in. A curious child or a busy adult can easily topple a hot pan, and cause a scald burn.

And, as the nights become colder, follow these fire safety tips for your heating appliances:

- If you use portable heaters, always keep the heater at least 3 feet, or an arm's length, away from anything that can burn, including curtains, furniture, and children.
- Turn off all portable heaters when you leave the room.
- Always use the proper fuel for your particular type of heater.
- Give your heating equipment check-ups -- Have your furnace checked regularly and your chimney cleaned each year. If a heater malfunctioned last year, take it in to be fixed before you use it this year.
- Keep a screen in front of your fireplace to keep burning embers from falling out of the fireplace, and be sure that the fire is out before you go to bed.

Following these suggestions will keep you and your family warm and safe this winter season. For more information, please call the Newport News Fire Department at 926-8404, or visit our website at [www.nngov.com/fire](http://www.nngov.com/fire).

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