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**CITY OF RICHMOND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**ORGANIZED OCTOBER 25, 1858**  
**201 E. Franklin Street**  
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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **THANKSGIVING SAFETY**

*Richmond, Virginia* —For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. So keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at home. Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day, Christmas Eve, and the day before Thanksgiving. In 2016, U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 1,570 home cooking fires on Thanksgiving, the peak day for such fires. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing that large family feast, remember, by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safer from fire.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food and ensure the area remains clear of any combustible material.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- 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 a lit candle unattended.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

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