



# | Press Release

Press release from **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service** and **Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Authority**  
**Making Derbyshire Safer Together**

**3 FEBRUARY 2020**

## **TAKE EXTRA CARE IN THE KITCHEN**

With over 40% of all accidental house fires starting in the kitchen, Firefighters are asking people to take extra care and take some simple precautions to prevent a kitchen fire in the home.

Throughout February, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service will be raising awareness of distractions and other risks that can increase the chance of a fire starting in the kitchen.

Prevention Station Manager Nathan Stevens said: "A fire in the home is a devastating event that can have far reaching and catastrophic consequences, yet many people still believe it could never happen to them and they aren't aware of how quickly a fire can start in the kitchen.

"Between 2018 and 2019, Firefighters attended 400 accidental house fires, with 43% of these starting in the kitchen. With so many distractions in our homes, an unattended hob, a build-up of fat and grease, or simply a discarded tea towel can quickly lead to a fire if you take your eye off what's happening.

"I would encourage everyone to take a minute to follow our top tips for preventing a kitchen fire and to ensure everyone in your home is safe."

Top tips for preventing a fire in your kitchen:

- Take pans off the heat, or turn the hob off if leaving the room.
- Avoid leaving children alone in the kitchen when cooking is on the hob.
- Keep tea towels, cloths and other flammable materials away from the cooker hob.

email: [enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@derbys-fire.gov.uk)  
[www.derbys-fire.gov.uk](http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk)

Terry McDermott MA  
Chief Fire Officer / Chief Executive



- Double check the hob is off when you've finished cooking.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.
- Use a thermostat controlled electric deep fat fryer. They can't overheat.
- Never cook after enjoying a drink or two – it's easy to fall asleep while the cooker or hob is left on.
  
- **Ensure you test your smoke alarms weekly.**
  
- **Ensure you have a pre-planned and practiced escape plan in case fire breaks out in your home. .**

What to do if a pan catches fire:

- Don't take any risks. If it is safe to do so, turn the heat off – never throw water over it.
- Don't tackle the fire yourself – Get Out, Stay Out and Call 999.

For more information about keeping safe in the home visit [www.derbyshire-fire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire-fire.gov.uk)

**ENDS**