



# Midlothian Fire Department – Fire Prevention Bureau

*Martin Rita*

**Fire Chief**

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## November Fire Safety / Information

### Thanksgiving fire facts:

- Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires with more than three times the daily average for such incidents. Christmas Day and Christmas Eve ranked second and third, with both having nearly twice the daily average.
- Unattended cooking was by far the leading contributing factor in cooking fires and fire deaths.
- Cooking caused half (49 percent) of all reported home fires and more than two of every five (42 percent) home fire injuries, and it is the second leading cause of home fire deaths (20 percent) in 2015-2019.
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### Fire safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- 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 three 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 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.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Here are a few links for more information

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjUynq0HXdQ>

<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/CookingSafety.ashx>

[https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating\\_Safety.ashx](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Heating_Safety.ashx)



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## Fire Safety tips for children

Although most children learn fire prevention and fire safety skills at school, it is very important that parents reinforce the information at home. When reviewing fire safety with your children at home it is pertinent you remember a few tips:

1. Draw your escape route. Sit and down and go over a drawn map of your house with two escape routes highlighted out of every room. Common exits are doors and windows.
2. Make sure the child can open the window in every room if necessary. Some windows may be stuck or even painted shut so make sure each window can be opened easily and quickly by everyone in the household in case of a fire emergency.
3. Teach the child about smoke detectors. Explain what they are and how they work. Also demonstrate how they work and sound the alarm so the child will relate the sound made to a warning of an actual fire.
4. Explain the touch method. Demonstrate how to touch the doors to determine if there is fire on the other side. Also explain when it would be necessary to get a wet towel and block the airway under the door, or when to use a towel to grab objects or door handles so they can make a safe escape.
5. Teach them to feel their way to safety. When a real fire occurs, visibility is very low. Every child should know how to feel their way out of their house to get to safety. A good way to teach this is by practicing with eyes closed or a blindfold on. This can be made into a very fun fire safety learning experience.

Teaching fire safety to children is very important. Practice your escape route plans at least twice a year so everyone is familiar with all fire exits and the final family meeting place outside your home.

Here is a fire safety link for children

<https://sparky.org>

For more information or any questions please feel free to reach out via e-mail. Thank you and have a safe holiday!

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