



AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Department of Risk Management & Safety  
Fire & Life Safety Program presents



# Cooking Safety Training

Fire Safety  
is  
important  
for  
everyone.



It could save not only your life,  
but the lives of others as well.



A few things you need to know...

**FIRE IS FAST!**



In less than 30 seconds a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire.



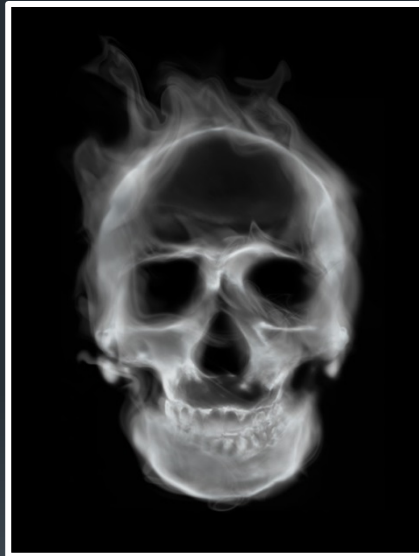
## Did you know?

A typical residence hall room could be unsurvivable from fire and smoke in under 3 minutes.



A few things you need to know...

**SMOKE KILLS!**



**Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do.**

A few things you need to know...

**HAVE AN EXIT PLAN!**



Always Know **2 WAYS OUT!**

Leaving food unattended while cooking is one of the main causes of fires and nuisance alarms on college campuses.







# Did you know?

## According to the Auburn University Guide to Residential Living

- If the Fire Department responds to a fire, and it is proven that your negligence caused the fire, you will be charged a fine of \$150.
- If there are damages, you will be charged the cost of cleanup/restoration.

# What are common distractions while cooking?

Computers

Cell Phones

Television

Friends & Neighbors

Falling Asleep

Bathroom Break





# While you were distracted...

- Carelessness and neglect during food preparation leads to fire incidents and nuisance alarms.
- Nuisance alarms lead to complacency.
- These occurrences are very avoidable.



# While you were distracted...

- Your cooking continued!  
Now your food is ruined!
- It set off the fire alarm!  
Now everyone is standing  
in the parking lot, staring  
at you!
- It overheated and ignited  
nearby items!  
You lost your cell phone,  
laptop, and that project  
you've been working so  
hard on!

You risked  
danger to  
yourself and  
others!

# While you were distracted...

- Most people find it hard to believe just how fast a simple cooking task can turn into a stovetop fire incident.



# While you were distracted...

- Typically a smoke detector or alarm will sound in advance of a large fire incident providing enough time to react to the situation.





How can we prevent kitchen fires?



# Look When You Cook!

This will prevent possible injury to yourself and others.

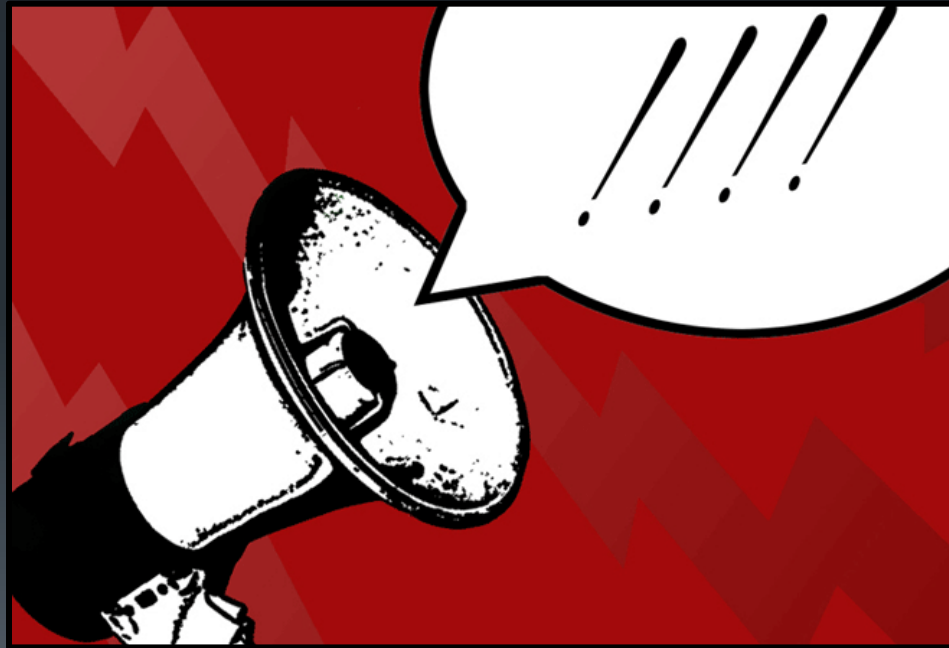
Is a text message really that important?

You can prevent unwanted alarms!



# Look When You Cook!

THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!



Microwaves are safe, right?



WRONG!



How can we prevent microwave fires?







# Preventing Microwave Fires

What are common problems with preparing food in the microwave?

- Not adding enough water as directed.
- Improper cooking times.
- Leaving the room while microwave is in use.

How many times have you burned  
that popcorn?





# Preventing Microwave Fires

## THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!

- Follow preparation/manufacture instructions.
- Pay attention to cooking time and power settings.
- Never put any type of metal into the microwave.
- Don't leave the microwave unattended!



## If a Microwave fire occurs...

- Keep appliance door closed.
- Turn off and unplug, if possible.
- Activate manual fire alarm.
- Report ALL fires to 9-1-1.

How can we prevent stovetop fires?



# Preventing Stovetop Fires

- Turn pot handles inward.
- Keep cooking areas clean.
- Never use a wet oven mitt.
- Do not wear loose clothing.
- Never leave cooking unattended.





Look When You Cook!



What should I do when a fire occurs?





## If a SMALL stovetop fire occurs...

- Turn off the burner.
- Place a lid on the pan.
- DO NOT use water, flour, sugar, etc.
- Do not lift lid until cooled.
- DO NOT move the pan or attempt to carry it to another location.
- Report ALL fires to 9-1-1.



## If a LARGER stovetop fire occurs...

- Leave the area immediately.
- Close the door behind you.
- DO NOT go back into the room.
- Activate manual fire alarm.
- Report ALL fires to 9-1-1.

Should I use a fire extinguisher?



# Should I use a fire extinguisher?

- NO ONE is required to attempt to fight a fire or use a fire extinguisher!
- The choice to use a fire extinguisher rests with the user.







# Should I use a fire extinguisher?

- Before attempting to use a fire extinguisher, be sure that the fire is not too big to handle (**no larger than a small trash can**), and that you have a means to escape.
- Activate manual fire alarm to notify occupants.
- Report ALL fires to 9-1-1.

# Fire Extinguishers



- Fire extinguishers are available in ALL Auburn University Student Housing Common Area Kitchens.
- ALL fire extinguishers at Auburn University are inspected monthly in order to keep the fire extinguishers in a constant state of readiness.

# Fire Extinguishers

**P**ull the pin.

- This will allow you to discharge the fire extinguisher.



# Fire Extinguishers

**A**im at the base  
of the fire.

- Stand at least 8-10 ft. away.



# Fire Extinguishers

**S**queeze the top handle or lever.

- Depresses a spring loaded valve button that releases the pressurized extinguishing agent.



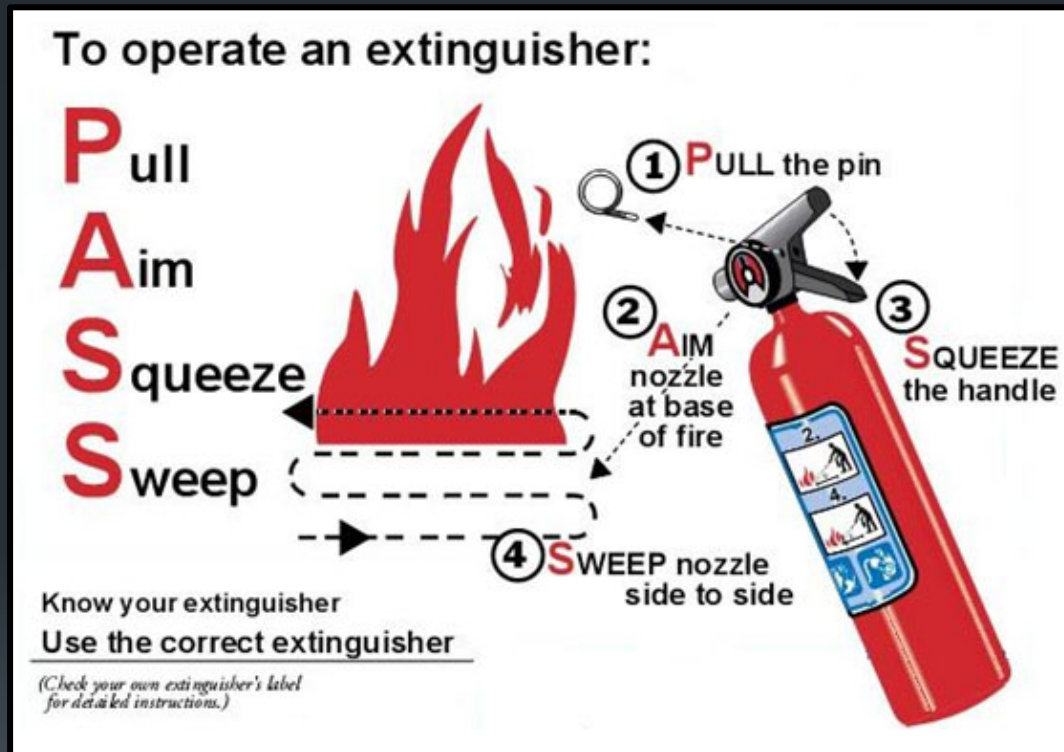
# Fire Extinguishers



**S**weep from side to side.

- Do this until fire is completely out.
- Once fire is extinguished, be sure to keep your eyes on hot material for re-ignition.

# Remember!



Viewing of this training DOES NOT serve as a substitute for hands on Fire Extinguisher Training.



# Fire Extinguishers

**THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!**

*Attempt to use a fire extinguisher ONLY if...*

- You are trained and familiar with the fire extinguisher.
- The conditions allow you to use it.

*The choice is up to you. Your safety comes first!*





# Let's Review

Do you know the #1 cause of Fires and Nuisance Alarms on college campuses?

Leaving your food while it is cooking.

How can we prevent kitchen fires?

Look When You Cook!

How can we prevent microwave fires?

Follow cooking directions and do NOT leave the microwave.



# Let's Review

Should I use a fire extinguisher?

Only use a fire extinguisher if you are trained.

What is the proper method for using a fire extinguisher?

Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep.

What should I do if a fire occurs?

Report fires to 9-1-1.

# Remember

Fire Safety is for everyone!

And

Your safety is important to us!





## Contact RMS/Fire & Life Safety for more information

MaryAnn MacKenzie  
Fire & Life Safety Specialist  
334-703-7173  
[mzm0036@auburn.edu](mailto:mzm0036@auburn.edu)

Risk Management & Safety  
334-844-4870  
<https://cws.auburn.edu/rms/#/>

Jon Haney  
Fire & Life Safety Specialist  
334-740-8727  
[haneyjd@auburn.edu](mailto:haneyjd@auburn.edu)

Patricia Davis  
Fire & Life Safety Technician  
334-750-9981  
[davispp@auburn.edu](mailto:davispp@auburn.edu)