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November 16, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Cooking Up a Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is a day spent with family and friends sharing great food, laughs, and wonderful memories. Safety in the kitchen is always important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is an increase in traffic in the kitchen. Thanksgiving Day is still the leading day of the year for home fires involving home cooking equipment.

In 2015, an estimated 51% of residential building fires were reported to fire departments in the U.S. due to cooking fires and caused an estimated 380,900 fires leading to approximately 1800 deaths.

Unfortunately, during the busy holiday season, fire safety and injury prevention are sometimes overlooked. Lake Stevens Fire offers the following safety tips to help keep your holiday season fire safe and injury free.

- Stay in the kitchen while you are cooking food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - such as potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Don't wear loose sleeves or loose clothing while cooking.
- If a fire starts in a pot or pan, use the lid to extinguish flames; otherwise use a fire extinguisher. Turn the stove off. Do NOT use water as it can spatter the fire and multiply its effects.
- If food in the oven catches fire, turn off the oven and leave the door closed. Do not open the door until completely cooled.
- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- Turkey fryers are extremely dangerous and most safety organizations do not recommend their use. Be very cautious if you choose to use one, and only use them outside. ALWAYS properly THAW your turkey prior to use in a fryer and follow the manufactures recommendations on oil levels in the fat fryer.

Assistant Fire Marshal David Petersen commented, "Remember to stay safe and practice a fire escape plan this time of year. Lake Stevens Fire is committed to your safety and awareness of possible hazards. It's never too late to check your smoke alarms for proper use and effectiveness."

For additional safety tips and Thanksgiving activities for children, visit NFPA's website: **Sparky.org/Parent Page**. For additional information regarding statistical data relating to Thanksgiving, please visit FEMA's website: **FEMA.org / Statistics / Thanksgiving**. Lake Stevens Fire wishes you a safe Thanksgiving and holiday season.

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