

For Immediate Release

October 12, 2023

Press Release

Fire Prevention Week is October 8 – 14, 2023

The Wilton Fire Department is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) — the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW) for more than 100 years — to promote this year's FPW campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention™." The campaign works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take when cooking to keep themselves and those around them safe.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries in the United States. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires and deaths.

"Year after year, cooking remains the leading cause of home fires by far, accounting for half (49 percent) of all U.S. home fires," said Lorraine Carli, vice president of outreach and advocacy at NFPA. "These numbers tell us that there is still much work to do when it comes to better educating the public about ways to stay safe when cooking."

The Wilton Fire Department encourages all residents to embrace the 2023 Fire Prevention Week theme, "Cooking safety starts with YOU," said Fire Chief James Blanchfield. "A cooking fire can grow quickly. I have seen many homes damaged and people injured by fires that could easily have been prevented."

The Wilton Fire Department offers these key safety tips to help reduce the risk of a cooking fire:

1. Watch what you heat. Always keep a close eye on what you are cooking. Set a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
2. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
3. Have a "kid- and pet-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 meter) around the stove or grill and anywhere else hot food or drinks are prepared or carried.

For more information about Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety, call the Wilton Fire Department at (203) 834-6247 or visit www.fpw.org. For fire safety fun for kids, visit sparky.org.

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