

# PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY SMARTBURNER™ FACT SHEET

## Cooking Fires are a Big Problem in Homes

**High-Risk Properties include Multi-Family, Senior and Public, College & University Housing**



According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)\*, cooking is the leading cause of reported home fires and home fire injuries. These fires are also the second leading cause of home fire deaths. NFPA estimates that cooking is responsible for almost half of all reported home fires.

### **Ranges or cooktops were involved in 78% of cooking fire injuries and 87% of deaths.**

According to NFPA, households that use electric ranges have a higher risk of cooking fires and associated losses than those using gas ranges. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of all home cooking fires. Other common user errors that lead to cooking fire casualties include items placed too close to the heat, inadequate cleaning and heat being left on. Fire safety experts recommend these tips for cooks:

- Always keep a close eye on what you're cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.
- Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- Create a "kid and pet free zone" of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

### **Who is at risk from home cooking fires?**

Everyone is at risk. Some populations are at greater risk. Large residential occupancies, such as public and senior housing and student dormitories and apartments, often have resident populations that are at greater risk.

Older adults – NFPA reports that people aged 55-64 had the largest share of U.S. home cooking fire deaths. The risk of dying in a cooking fire is 5.5 times greater for those aged 85 and older than for the overall population. In fact, cooking fires caused more home fire deaths among this age group than any other cause.

Young adults – NFPA reports that the highest rate of cooking fire injuries is among people aged 20-34.

Males – NFPA's analysis found that males experienced slightly more than half of all home cooking fire injuries and deaths.



In many communities, these occupancies represent a large volume of reported cooking fires.

## The SMARTBURNER™ Solution

Prevention is essential - it protects residents, property and firefighters from the danger of home cooking fires. Prevention saves lives. When cooking fires do happen they are costly to the victims and the community, destroying property and spiking municipal emergency response costs. In multi-family residential buildings, a single cooking fire can result in closing multiple units, costly repairs, and increased insurance premiums.

In addition to general education about the importance of cooking fire safety, installing working smoke alarms and having well practiced escape routes, fire safety experts increasingly recommend using proven new technology to prevent cooking fire losses in properties with electric coil stovetops: Specifically, SmartBurner.

Manufactured by Pioneering Technology, SmartBurner is an easy to install replacement for electric coils. Its patented temperature limiting control technology™ keeps the high-end temperature below the auto-ignition point of most cooking oils. SmartBurner allows people to cook, boil and fry their food with peace of mind.

### SMARTBURNER™

- Universal fit
- Installs in minutes with no special tools or expertise
- Cooks evenly without changing the cooking experience
- Easy clean-up after cooking
- Saves energy
- Return on investment for building owners

## SMARTBURNER™



SmartBurner has been successfully installed more than *1.5 million* times. There have been zero reported cooking fires where this technology was in place. These public safety installations benefit property owners, residents and the fire service.

### SMARTBURNER™ Success Story: Worcester, MA, Housing Authority (WHA)

The Worcester Fire Department's CRR fire analysis identified four WHA high-rise buildings that were responsible for nearly 25 percent of all of Worcester's reported cooking fires in 2015. These buildings accounted for an average of nearly 15 fires per month, causing more than \$500,000 in property damage. The apartments housed low-to no-income older adults, most of whom had physical or mental disabilities that increased their fire risk.

The program combined education and training of property managers and residents with the installation of SmartBurner in the WHA apartments. There have been zero fires where the SmartBurner was in place. After the first phase of installations, there was a documented 96% reduction in cooking-related fire department calls.

In total, the Worcester Fire Department was awarded four FEMA grants between 2015 and 2020 that allowed them to complete the installation of SmartBurner in WHA properties equipped with electric coil stoves- a total of 2981 apartments protected.

\*Home Cooking Fires, NFPA, Marty Ahrens, July 2020