

PIONEERING TECHNOLOGY SMARTBURNER™ FACT SHEET

Cooking Fires are a Big Problem in Homes

High-Risk Properties include Multi-Family, Senior, Public, and 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:

- Stay awake and alert when cooking.
- Before cooking, pull long hair back and wear tight, short sleeves or roll them up.
- Start with a clean range top and move anything that can burn away before turning on the heat.
- Stay in the kitchen when using the range top, especially when you use high heat to fry, broil or grill.
- Set a timer and check the food often when using the oven or a low temperature to simmer.

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 one 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 12 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.

After receiving a fourth grant, the Worcester Fire Department will complete the installation of SmartBurner in additional WHA properties equipped with electric coil stove tops. SmartBurner will help protect 3,000 total units (12,000 burners).

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