



Prevent Cooking Fires!

Cooking fires are the most common cause of fire in VU residence halls.



When You Cook...

- **Stay in the room when you are cooking.** Whether cooking on the stove, in the oven or in a microwave oven, fires can ignite in seconds.
- **Keep flammable materials away from hot burners.** Pot holders, kitchen towels, curtains, and your clothing – long sleeves and loose tops – can all catch fire.
- Turn pot handles inward to avoid spills. Always use a potholder when reaching for handles.
- Heat oil gradually to avoid burns from spattering grease.
- Clean up flammable greases and oil.
- **Always turn off appliances before you leave.**

If it Burns...

- Always know your **escape route**.
- **Only attempt to extinguish a fire in its early stages, when it is very small.** A small fire is no larger than a small waste can, or no larger than twice the size of the cooking pan.
- **For stove top fires:**
 - **Smother the fire by covering pot with a lid.** You can also sprinkle baking soda on very small fires.
 - **Never throw water on a grease fire!**
 - If you want to use an extinguisher on a stove top fire, start spraying from 8-10 feet away from the stove top, aiming slightly above the pan rim. If you are too close you can spread the fire.
 - Once the fire is extinguished, turn off the heat and let the pot cool.
- **For conventional or microwave oven fires, keep the door closed, and turn off or unplug the oven.**

Stay Alive – Evacuate!

- **Evacuate immediately if you can't put out the fire!**



- Close doors behind you as you depart to slow the spread of smoke and fire.
- Pull the fire alarm as you leave, if the alarm is not already sounding.
- **Always use stairs, never elevators,** to evacuate during a fire.
- Once outside proceed to the Area Assembly Point and don't go back inside until VU Officials say it is safe.

