

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Amador-El Dorado Unit

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### Thanksgiving Fire Safety Tips

**Camino** – The Amador-El Dorado Unit of CAL FIRE wants to make sure everyone's Thanksgiving holiday is a fire safe holiday. Unit Chief Kelly Keenan states "did you know that across this nation there are approximately 2000 house fires reported on Thanksgiving Day, the highest number of house fires for any single day of the year? These fires result in injury, death and over \$21 million in damage in one single 24 hour period. Over 70% of these fires occur between noon and 4 pm and nearly 70% are cooking fires which are mostly small but, any fire has the potential to destroy lives. So what can you do to prevent a holiday disaster? Read on!"

- Leaving your food cooking unattended is the leading cause of cooking fires. It is best to *never* leave food cooking unattended. If you must leave the cooking area, turn off the burner, oven, etc.
- Be sure to turn the handles of the pots and pans towards the back of the stove where they are out of reach and are less likely to get bumped.
- Keep a lid or baking sheet nearby to cover a pot or pan that has caught fire.
- Frying poses the greatest risk of a fire, so consider an alternative such as the infrared oil-less fryers available for less than \$100.
- Avoid wearing loose fitting clothes with long sleeves while cooking because clothing catching on fire accounts for 16% of cooking fire deaths.
- Establish a "no kid zone" for a minimum of 3 feet around any cooking surface.
- Make sure your smoke detectors are working and linked throughout your home.

"As JFK once said 'as we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest [appreciation](#) is not to utter words, but to live by them.' Here is wishing you and your loved ones a fire safe Thanksgiving" adds Chief Keenan. For more fire and life safety tips please visit our webpage at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

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