What if the fire is inside an oven or microwave?

PUT A LID ON cooking fires

Cooking is one of the leading causes of home fires and fire injuries. Last year, approximately one-third of the residential fires that Tigard Valley Fire & Rescue responded to began in a kitchen. Minimize your risk of a fire by organizing a safe kitchen and practicing these safe cooking tips:

- Keep a watchful eye on what you are cooking — never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your cooking area clean, including the stovetop, oven, and exhaust fan.
- Keep dish towels, pot holders, and other items that can burn away from heat sources such as burners on the stove and oven doors.
- Watch your sleeves to prevent them from catching fire or getting caught on pan handles.
- Heat oil slowly and watch it closely.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen. Store it in an easy-to-reach location and know how to use it. The discharge of a portable fire extinguisher only lasts between eight and 10 seconds.
- Do not cook if you are tired or have taken medication that may make you tired.
- For baking, set a timer you can hear. In the event of a fire that you cannot safely extinguish, immediately get out of the house and call 911 from a cellphone or neighbor’s house.

If a fire occurs inside the oven or microwave, do not open the door to the appliance. Fire needs oxygen to spread. Be sure the lid is tightly closed, then turn off the burner and carefully slide the lid over the pan from the side. The lid will "smother" the fire, while turning off the burner reduces the heat. Do not move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and the pan is cool. If you do not have a lid, you can use a baking sheet or pizza pan. Never transfer a burning pan from the stove to the sink or an exterior door.

What if I have a grease fire?

Never pour water on a grease fire. Water causes these fires to explode as the burning material stays on top of the water, causing it to spread and putting you at severe risk of getting burned. If the fire is still small, you can use a pan lid and carefully slide it over the pan. Then turn off the burner, and, if you have a lid, you can use a baking sheet or pizza pan. Never transfer a burning pan from the stove to the sink or an exterior door.

If your smoke alarm keeps sounding when I’m cooking. What should I do?

Smoke alarm placement and the smoke alarm type may be to blame. Smoke alarms are meant to alert people who are sleeping that there is a smoke in the house, which is why they are typically placed inside and outside of bedrooms. Because of the potential for false alarms, smoke alarms should not be installed in or near kitchens. If there is a hard-wired alarm close to the kitchen cautioning nuisance alarms, consider replacing the alarm. Never smoke alarms are being developed with Universal Smoke Sensing Technology designed to help prevent nuisance alarms. Photoelectric smoke alarms can also help prevent accidental activations from cooking smoke and steam. You can also turn on the stove exhaust fan and open a window to help prevent false alarms.

Do you have advice on cooking rules for children home alone?

Allow cooking privileges based on age and maturity. Consider allowing younger children to only use a microwave or oven to heat food. If a door is ajar, you can turn it off or use a lock to take it out of circulation.

Cooking Safety Tips

- Never use matches, lighters, or candles. Keep these items out of reach so that they are not to be touched by anyone other than an adult.

Pandemic operations

TVFR&R has had a task force assigned to COVID-19 operations since March 2020. The group has equipped, trained, and constantly communicated with personnel. Though it’s standard for the District to maintain several months’ worth of medical supplies and equipment, supply chains became strained with global demand. So, firefighters and paramedics transitioned to resuscitate eats and respiratory equipment at home. This helped preserve supplies while keeping personnel and the community safe.

Firefighters constantly disinfect apparatus, fire stations, and common facilities and follow guidance provided by public health departments and the Center for Disease Control. Early on, the District implemented temperature checks and mandatory personal protective equipment to prevent spread. Fortunately, only one firefighter was diagnosed with COVID-19 and has fully recovered.

Assistant Chief Kenney Frontiera has been the incident commander of the task force and acknowledges the unique challenges posed by the global outbreak. “Even though we had standard procedures as part of our emergency operations protocol for many years, there have been a significant number of details to manage and grapple with in the face of maintaining safety, saving, and breathing at the same time. I couldn’t be more pleased by the performance of our firefighters and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to ensure reliable response for our community. I’m also grateful for the way Oregonians have pitched in to help those in need.”

We look forward to resuming normal operations but remain in to minimize coronavirus spread. We are incredibly grateful for the vast outpouring of support and supplies we received from individuals and businesses throughout our service area during the pandemic. This support undoubtedly kept our firefighters and paramedics safe while they continued to provide emergency care to the most vulnerable among us.

From the business community to school clubs and an army of home 3D printers, we remained well-equipped to do the job we love.

The Home Depot
Nike
Cabot Microelectronics Corporation
Tobah, Inc.
Lam Research
High-Tech Grating, Inc.
Flat Electric Supply
Gerber Gear
Dr. Tony Liu
Lowe’s
Second Uniforms and Apparel
Tigard-Tualatin School District
West Linn-Wilsonville School District
Beaverton School District
Sherwood School District

Published June 2020

Community steps up to show support

Below are some of the local organizations that went above and beyond.

- The Home Depot
- Nike
- Cabot Microelectronics Corporation
- Tobah, Inc.
- Lam Research
- High-Tech Grating, Inc.
- Flat Electric Supply
- Gerber Gear
- Dr. Tony Liu
- Lowe’s
- Second Uniforms and Apparel
- Tigard-Tualatin School District
- West Linn-Wilsonville School District
- Beaverton School District
- Sherwood School District.

For more life safety information, visit www.tvfr.com.

Q&A with Deputy Fire Marshal Stephanie McKee

What should I do if I have a small pan fire?

The easiest way to extinguish a small pan fire is with a pan lid. Turn off the burner and carefully slide the lid over the pan from the side. The lid will “smother” the fire, while turning off the burner reduces the heat. Do not move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and the pan is cool. If you do not have a lid, you can use a baking sheet or pizza pan. Never transfer a burning pan from the stove to the sink or an exterior door.

On July 1, 2019, I was sworn in as your fire chief. If you would have asked me to predict the biggest challenges I would face in my first year, a pandemic would not have been at the top of my list. Fortunately, experiences and training over my 26-year fire service career have prepared me to solve complex problems. More importantly, I know the value of a good team. I could not be more proud of the TVFR&R team who has worked tirelessly to provide the best possible service to our community during uncertain and unprecedented times.

Our firefighters and paramedics have diligently served on the front lines, and our support personnel ensured they had proper personal protective equipment, protocols, training, healthcare, and contingency plans. Even in the midst of a pandemic, we have continued to work on key goals including capital construction projects and acquisition of essential equipment such as fire engines, fire hose, breathing apparatus, radio, and medical kits. In partnership with Washington County, neighboring fire departments, and Metro West Ambulance, we continued to make progress toward improving the emergency medical system in Washington County. Most dear to me is our internal work on inclusion and understanding implicit bias. This is key to our culture and the future of TVFR&R.

My heart aches for families who have lost loved ones during the pandemic, and I’m mindful of the financial stress being felt by people whose jobs have been impacted. As the father of two daughters, one in her senior year of high school, I’ve appreciated the way students and teachers have had to adapt and contend with online learning and missed experiences. I’ve been humbled by the support of our community who made face shields, donated medical supplies, and provided essential services. I will use these lessons that I have learned over the past year to improve our organization, and I will carefully tend the resources you’ve entrusted to us.

In service,
Chief Deric Weiss

Talk to your kids about fire and life safety

For many young people, this may be the time when they will be trusted to be home alone. Parents and caregivers should review fire and life safety tips with them. Talk to your kids about how and when to call 911 for police, fire, or medical assistance in the event of an emergency.

Children should know their address, phone number, and your contact information so that they can provide the information to an emergency dispatcher.

Other safety tips to share:

- Never use matches, lighters, or candles. Keep these items out of reach so that they are not to be touched by anyone other than an adult.
- Never leave a pan on the burner, even when the burner is turned off. Pans that are too hot to reach can still be hot.
- Do not leave the oven door open when cooking.
- Do not leave the oven door open when cooking.
- Do not use your microwave as an oven.
- Do not use your toaster as a toaster.
- Do not use your broiler as a broiler.
- Do not use your grill as a grill.
- Do not use your stovetop as a stovetop.
- Do not use your oven as an oven.
- Do not use your toaster oven as a toaster oven.
- Do not use your rice cooker as a rice cooker.

We are incredibly grateful for the vast outpouring of support and supplies we received from individuals and businesses throughout our service area during the pandemic.

This support undoubtedly kept our firefighters and paramedics safe while they continued to provide emergency care to the most vulnerable among us.

From the business community to school clubs and an army of home 3D printers, we remained well-equipped to do the job we love.
Firefighters and paramedics responded to 49,337 incidents within the District’s 390-square-mile service area in 2019. Meeting our emergency response objectives would not be possible without our Logistics Division.

Logistics personnel ensure each crew has the tools, equipment, apparatus, and personal protective equipment needed to take immediate action at complex incidents such as entering a burning building, providing advanced life support care to cardiac arrest patients, performing vehicle extrications after crashes, and rescuing individuals from other dangerous situations.

When 33,063 of last year’s incidents required some element of medical care, it was supply that equipped our emergency medical responders with the right equipment, medications, and specialized devices needed to provide care.

Facilities ensured that station alerting systems, building controls, and bay doors functioned properly to allow crews to leave their stations fast, maintain apparatus so crews could respond and arrive safely to emergency scenes.

And, it was Communications that made sure crews received key information and could call for additional resources when responding to emergencies.

TVF&R is well positioned for the future because of community support. Your property taxes have allowed the District to make investments that help ensure our ability to provide fast and effective emergency response services.

One major project that will immediately result in greater efficiencies is the relocation of TVF&R’s logistics services under one, centrally located roof.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our contractor, Emerick Construction, hasn’t skipped a beat in making improvements to a new Logistics Service Center on Avery Street in Tualatin. While abiding by public health measures to protect their workforce, they are on track to complete improvements by November.

The building will house TVF&R personnel currently based in separate facilities in Aloha, who provide fleet, supply, communications, and facility maintenance services.

“We’ve grown as a District, and it makes sense to have all our logistics services in the same building to allow us to coordinate the work that needs to happen to support the District’s mission,” said Director of Logistics Mark Charleston.

“This will be a game changer for us.”

The District would like to thank neighbors for their patience when construction of the Logistics Service Center takes shape.

The District entered 2020 with the opening of a new fire station in Tualatin, strengthening emergency response in the Evergreen, Durham, and Bridgerport Village areas as well.

Funds from a voter-approved local option levy in May 2014 enabled the District to purchase land for McEwan Road Station 39, which opened and began serving the community on January 21.

The two-person crew assigned to Squad 39 and battalion chief housed at the station have been busy responding to 911 calls.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the community open house scheduled in March had to be postponed but will be rescheduled when it is safe to host public gatherings.

For additional resources when responding to emergencies.

TVF&R recently replaced 450 aging and obsolete analog portable radios and 38 base station radios with digital-capable devices.

Another 177 mobile radios are in the process of being installed in apparatus as rigs rotate through the District’s shop for scheduled maintenance as part of a regional effort to upgrade emergency communication systems that first responders rely on.

TVF&R also installed 28 new station alerting systems equipped with a digital timer (that shows how long it takes the crew to leave the station) and reader board (that displays scrolling details of the incident crews are being dispatched to).

Funding for the new equipment was part of a $77 million Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency bond measure approved by voters in May 2016.

The system is staffed by 911 dispatchers who notify TVF&R and other first responders of possible emergencies, provide information about the situation as crews travel to the scene, allow coordination of resources, request additional aid, and alert other responding units of next steps in response efforts.

TVF&R personnel are excited for the regional communications system to go digital, which will enhance audio quality.

TVF&R is well positioned for the future because of community support. Your property taxes have allowed the District to make investments that help ensure our ability to provide fast and effective emergency response services.

One major project that will immediately result in greater efficiencies is the relocation of TVF&R’s logistics services under one, centrally located roof.

Despite the pandemic, our contractor, Emerick Construction, hasn’t skipped a beat in making improvements to a new Logistics Service Center on Avery Street in Tualatin. While abiding by public health measures to protect their workforce, they are on track to complete improvements by November.

The building will house TVF&R personnel currently based in separate facilities in Aloha, who provide fleet, supply, communications, and facility maintenance services.

“We’ve grown as a District, and it makes sense to have all our logistics services in the same building to allow us to coordinate the work that needs to happen to support the District’s mission,” said Director of Logistics Mark Charleston.

“This will be a game changer for us.”

The District would like to thank neighbors for their patience when construction of the Logistics Service Center takes shape.

The District entered 2020 with the opening of a new fire station in Tualatin, strengthening emergency response in the Evergreen, Durham, and Bridgerport Village areas as well.

Funds from a voter-approved local option levy in May 2014 enabled the District to purchase land for McEwan Road Station 39, which opened and began serving the community on January 21.

The two-person crew assigned to Squad 39 and battalion chief housed at the station have been busy responding to 911 calls.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the community open house scheduled in March had to be postponed but will be rescheduled when it is safe to host public gatherings.

For additional resources when responding to emergencies.

TVF&R recently replaced 450 aging and obsolete analog portable radios and 38 base station radios with digital-capable devices.

Another 177 mobile radios are in the process of being installed in apparatus as rigs rotate through the District’s shop for scheduled maintenance as part of a regional effort to upgrade emergency communication systems that first responders rely on.

TVF&R also installed 28 new station alerting systems equipped with a digital timer (that shows how long it takes the crew to leave the station) and reader board (that displays scrolling details of the incident crews are being dispatched to).

Funding for the new equipment was part of a $77 million Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency bond measure approved by voters in May 2016.

The system is staffed by 911 dispatchers who notify TVF&R and other first responders of possible emergencies, provide information about the situation as crews travel to the scene, allow coordination of resources, request additional aid, and alert other responding units of next steps in response efforts.

TVF&R personnel are excited for the regional communications system to go digital, which will enhance audio quality.