



# TOWNSHIP OF WEST ORANGE

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## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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### **West Orange Fire Department Reminds Residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'**

**October 7, 2013 -- West Orange, New Jersey** – From October 6-12, 2013, the West Orange Fire Department (WOFD) is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' During this year's fire safety campaign, the WOFD will highlight the dangers of kitchen fires.

According to the latest NFPA research, cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of home fire-related injuries.

"Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson," Fire Chief Peter A. Smeraldo said.

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

The WOFD is hosting its Annual Open House on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-12 PM at the WO Library, 46 Mt. Pleasant Ave. with fire prevention demonstrations, give-a-ways and light refreshments. Admission is free.

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