

## *St. Lucie County Fire District News Release*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **St. Lucie County Fire District Reminds Residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'**

St. Lucie County, October 5, 2013—It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6-12 the St. Lucie County Fire District 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, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

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 had simply forgotten they left the pot on the stove or that they only left it for a few minutes while they did something else," said Deputy Chief Buddy Emerson, Fire Marshal for the District. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach people in our community before they've suffered a damaging lesson."

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 that won't come in contact with the burners.
- 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.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.