

St. Lucie County Fire District News Release

Contact: Catherine W. Chaney
Public Information Officer
St. Lucie County Fire District
772-621-3333
cchaney@slcfd.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 23, 2010

St. Lucie County Fire District Urges Residents to Cook Safe this Thanksgiving Weekend

St. Lucie County, FL – The St. Lucie County Fire District urges residents to use caution when fixing their holiday meals this year.

“There have been numerous home fires over the last few weeks,” explained Fire Chief Ron Parrish. “The causes range from a pot left on the stove to electrical. With the excitement of family and friends gathering, people can easily be distracted while cooking.”

A recent report from the United States Fire Administration (USFA) examined the cause of Thanksgiving fires. According to the report:

- an estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of 5 deaths, 25 injuries, and \$21 million in property loss
- the leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings is, by far, cooking
- Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4 p.m.
- smaller, confined fires account for 71 percent and larger, nonconfined fires account for 29 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings
- smoke alarms were not present in 20 percent of nonconfined Thanksgiving Day fires that occurred in occupied residential buildings

For more information about this report, click on www.fema.gov/statistics.