



# OREGON

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon State Police  
**Office of State Fire Marshal**  
4760 Portland Road NE  
Salem, OR 97305-1760  
503-373-1540  
Fax 503-373-1825  
TTY 503-390-4661  
E-mail: [Oregon.sfm@state.or.us](mailto:Oregon.sfm@state.or.us)  
[www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM)

October 1, 2009

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Rich Hoover 503-934-8217 or 503-370-0033, pager  
Anita Horsley 503-934-8249

### **Governor proclaims October 4-10 Fire Prevention Week in Oregon**

In support of National Fire Prevention Week, Governor Kulongoski has proclaimed October 4-10 Oregon Fire Prevention Week. The Governor and State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson encourage Oregonians to practice kitchen fire safety, as cooking fires are one of the leading causes of home fires in Oregon.

The Office of State Fire Marshal and its Oregon Life Safety Team, along with fire departments statewide are teaming up in support of this month's national fire prevention campaign, *Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned* to remind Oregonians about fire and burn safety, and that fire safety responsibility starts at home.

"Citizens are the first line of defense in preventing home fires," said Oregon State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson. "Cooking fires are a leading cause of residential fires and burn injuries in Oregon. Simply by paying attention in the kitchen we can all dramatically decrease fires, burn and scald injuries, and deaths."

From 2004 through 2008, in Oregon there have been 796 reported cooking-related fires resulting in 87 injuries and more than \$3 million in property loss.

#### **Tips to prevent cooking fires:**

- Don't leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep your cooking area clean, including the stovetop, oven, and exhaust fan.
- Keep dishtowels, paper towels, pot holders, and other combustible items away from stove burners.
- Don't wear loose sleeves over stove burners – they can melt, ignite, or catch on handles of pots and pans.

#### **Tips to prevent scalds:**

- Keep hot liquids and foods away from stove, table, and counter edges so they cannot be pulled off or knocked over.
- Keep pot handles turned away from edges of the stove.
- Keep a 3-foot 'kid free' zone around the stove.

- Set your water heater thermostat no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Consider having anti-scald devices installed on faucets.

More tips on cooking safety, burn and scald safety, gasoline safety, and other home fire safety issues are available on the Oregon State Fire Marshal website at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Com\\_Ed\\_Section.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Com_Ed_Section.shtml).

The Office of State Fire Marshal urges you to maintain working smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. Test them regularly and never disconnect or remove the batteries for other uses. More information is available at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm\\_Ed/Smoke\\_Alarm\\_Info/Smoke\\_Alarm\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/Smoke_Alarm_Info/Smoke_Alarm_Brochure.pdf)

Fire Prevention Week is observed annually throughout North America and Europe, acknowledging the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire, known for destroying a large part of the city and killing 250 people on October 9, 1871.

For more information on fire safety and fire prevention week, contact your local fire department or visit [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/FPW\\_2009.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/FPW_2009.shtml).

####