



Most home fires start in the kitchen.

**Cooking fires are one of the
leading causes of residential
fires in Oregon.**

**From 2004 through 2008
reported cooking-related fires in
Oregon caused:**

**87 injuries and more than
\$3 million in property loss**

A moment's inattention can lead to a deadly and destructive kitchen fire...the phone rings and you answer, forgetting dinner cooking on the stove; your baby fusses and you go to help while the oil you were heating for a stir-fry overheats and flames up, igniting hand towels or pot holders; you start water for tea and look at your e-mail for "just a minute" while the kettle on the stove boils dry. People lead busy lives and it's easy to be distracted.

Facts about Cooking Fires

- Cooking equipment fires are the leading cause of home structure fires and associated civilian injuries.
- Recent National Fire Protection data shows unattended cooking equipment as the leading cause in 38% of home cooking fires.
- Cooking fires are one of the leading causes of Oregon residential fires.
- A U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission study found the cook was outside the kitchen for six of seven fires studied.

Safety 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 combustible items away from stove burners.
- Don't wear loose sleeves over hot stove burners – they can melt, ignite, or catch on handles of pots and pans.
- Cooking oil can ignite quickly. Heat oil slowly and watch it closely.



**Reported Oregon home cooking fires 2004 - 2008,
by county¹**

County	Number of Fires	Civilian injuries	Civilian deaths	Estimated Dollar Loss
Baker	2	0	0	\$510
Benton	18	0	0	\$8,800
Clackamas	76	8	0	\$76,255
Clatsop	7	1	0	\$100
Columbia	3	0	0	\$220
Coos	13	4	0	\$30,810
Curry	4	0	0	\$7,000
Deschutes	11	2	0	\$11,500
Douglas	19	8	0	\$166,500
Jackson	21	0	0	\$4,900
Jefferson	4	0	0	\$850
Josephine	13	1	0	\$2,900
Klamath	8	0	0	\$211,000
Lane	56	6	0	\$272,475
Lincoln	9	0	0	\$1,510
Linn	28	0	0	\$27,590
Malheur	9	0	0	\$10,000
Marion	66	7	0	\$266,735
Multnomah	241	30	0	\$1,368,257
Polk	15	0	0	\$145
Tillamook	6	0	0	\$500
Umatilla	4	0	0	\$9,000
Union	4	0	0	\$220,000
Wasco	5	3	0	\$7,400
Washington	127	15	0	\$177,910
Wheeler	1	0	0	\$15,000
Yamhill	26	2	0	\$126,300
TOTALS	796	87	0	\$3,024,167

¹ Reported by Oregon fire departments to Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. This data does not include unreported fires.