



MEDIA RELEASE

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Branson Fire Department Urges Thanksgiving Cooking Safety

BRANSON, Mo – As we enter November, the Branson Fire Department would like to remind everyone of some Thanksgiving safety tips to keep in mind as you think about cooking a big meal or preparing a turkey.

House fires are a lot more common in the month of November, because there is increased use in ovens and fryers. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are about 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires every year that result in injuries and death and approximately \$21 million in property loss. To prevent these kinds of fires, you should always stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently, have working fire extinguishers and smoke detectors nearby and keep children and pets away from the stove.

While deep frying a turkey can be a delicious way to celebrate a holiday with friends and family, Branson Firefighters would like to remind you that it can also lead to serious injury and fire loss if not done safely.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind when frying a turkey:

- Do not use a turkey fryer indoors. They can easily tip over or have oil overflow onto the burner causing a fire. Use turkey fryers outside on a sturdy, level surface, away from things that can burn.
- Make sure you have at least a three foot "child and pet free zone" for your fryer.
- Overfilling the cooking pot may cause oil to spill over when the turkey is added.
- Always inspect your turkey to make sure it is fully thawed. A partially frozen turkey may cause hot oil to splatter.
- Check the oil temperature regularly. Overheated oil can ignite.
- Remember, the pot, lid and handles of a turkey fryer can get dangerously hot and can cause burns.

For more information, including holiday fire safety tips when decorating, putting up lights and live Christmas trees, go to our website, <http://bransonmo.gov/165/Fire> and click on "Holiday Fire Safety."

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