



MEDIA RELEASE

## Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!™

*Fire Prevention Week 2020: October 4-10*

**Port Colborne, ON (Oct. 1, 2020)** – With Fire Prevention Week just around the corner, Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services is urging everyone in Port Colborne and Niagara to take some simple steps to prevent kitchen fires in their home.

This year's theme for Fire Prevention Week is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen," which runs October 4-10 in collaboration with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). As cooking fires continue to be the leading cause of home fires in Ontario, this year's theme will focus on the prevention of cooking fires and staying fire safe in the kitchen.

Simple steps to serve up fire safety in the kitchen include:

- Always stay in the kitchen when cooking and turn off the stove if you must leave the kitchen.
- Keep a proper fitting lid near the stove. If a pot of oil catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove. Do not move the pot. Never throw water on a burning pot.
- Keep anything that burns - plastic utensils, dishcloths, paper towels - a safe distance from the stove.
- Cook responsibly. To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. You will not be alert if you have consumed alcohol or drugs.
- Wear tight-fitting or rolled up sleeves when using the stove. Loose, dangling clothing can easily catch fire.
- Keep young kids one metre away from the stove. Turn pot handles away from the stove's edge so they can't be easily knocked off.
- If you burn yourself while cooking, run cool water over the wound for three to five minutes. If the burn is severe, seek medical attention.

"Cooking fires can happen to anyone," said Charles Turpin, Fire Prevention Officer. "People get distracted, they leave the room for a minute and that's when it happens. It's important for people to remember to stay alert and stay in the kitchen while cooking. Fire Prevention Week is our opportunity to connect with the Port Colborne community and remind them of these very important safety tips."

Port Colborne Fire & Emergency Services will take a digital approach to communicating these important messages this year. Be sure to stay tuned to their Facebook page and Twitter account during Oct. 4 – 10, for daily safety messages.

For the month of October fire fighters are also scheduling appointments, on request, to visit homes to ensure they are compliant with smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. In compliance with COVID-19 protocols, fire fighters will follow all health and safety regulations when entering someone's home. To be your own hero, schedule an appointment by calling 905-834-4512.

To learn more about fire prevention week and why home escape practice and planning are more important than ever, visit [www.fpw.org](http://www.fpw.org).

### **About City of Port Colborne**

Located on the south coast of the scenic Niagara Region, Niagara's Port of Call has found the perfect balance – successful industrial and commercial sectors, comfortable and scenic residential areas, white sand beaches, unique culinary choices, the world class Sugarloaf Marina, fishing, golfing, trails, shopping districts along the historic Welland Canal and an energized festival and entertainment scene that includes live theatre – truly a community that adds to the overall Niagara Experience.

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