



LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lakeland Fire Department Sponsors Fire Prevention Week and 8th Annual Open House to Remind Residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'

Lakeland — It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6 - 12, 2013 the Lakeland Fire Department (LFD) is joining forces with the non-profit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of kitchen fires--most of which result from unattended cooking—and teaching local residents how to prevent kitchen fires from starting in the first place.

The week will culminate with the LFD hosting its 8th annual Open House event scheduled for October 12, 2013 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The entire community is invited to this FREE event where the department will feature live demonstrations, tours, refreshments, fire safety education for all ages, and much more.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires. Two of every five home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home. Cooking fires are also the leading cause of fire-related injuries in the home. "Often when we're called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes," said Janel Vasallo, Public Education and Information Officer for the LFD. "Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week and our Open House event will help us reach citizens in our community to prevent this from ever happening to them."

Among the safety tips that firefighters and safety advocates will be emphasizing:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record.

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Fire Chief Gary Ballard

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