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## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### KITCHEN SAFETY TIPS

#### Cooking Safety:

To keep Unintentional injuries out of your kitchen, The Home Safety Council suggests taking these simple steps to prevent kitchen fires and burns:

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking; if you must leave the kitchen briefly, turn down the heat and return as quick as possible.
- Keep anything that can catch fire, such as dishtowels, paper or plastic bags, curtains, etc., at least 3 feet away from range top.
- Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before dumping them in the trash.
- Every kitchen should be protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's). If you don't have them, hire an electrician to install these devices to protect electrical receptacles in the kitchen.
- Avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing when cooking. If clothes catch on fire, Stop, Drop and Roll. Cool the burned area with cool water and seek medical attention for serious burns.
- Always turn pot handles inward to prevent small children from reaching and pulling down a hot pan.
- Keep hot items, such as beverages and trays that just came out of the oven away from the edge of counters, so that children are not able to reach them.
- Hot liquid and food burns often occur when children pull hanging tablecloths or placemats. Use tablecloths with care.
- Food cooking in a microwave can be dangerously hot. Remove the lids or other coverings with care.
- Use travel mugs with tight lids for coffee or other hot beverages when toddlers are around.
- Keep hot water heaters set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or below.
- Store knives and other sharp objects out of the reach of children.
- Post emergency numbers in visible areas.

**"I remember Muscatine for its sunsets. I have never seen any  
on either side of the ocean that equaled them" — Mark Twain**