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Press Release

Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department urges Super Bowl safety

Sunday marks second-biggest food consumption day in the United States

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (February 2, 2016) — For the many residents who will tune in to Super Bowl 50 on Sunday, host watch parties and serve food, the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department urges safety.

Super Bowl Sunday is America's second-biggest day for food consumption, which means a lot of time spent planning and preparing game-day snacks. But it also means more opportunities for fire risk.

Before kicking off your Super Bowl menu, take a look at these tips for safer cooking from Fire Chief Bobby Wolfe and the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA):

Kitchen huddle

Prepare your cooking area. Use back burners or turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Move things that can burn away from the stove. Keep a timer handy and use it when roasting or baking.

Penalty flag

Frying poses the greatest risk of fire. Keep an eye on what you fry. Start with a small amount of oil and heat it slowly. If you see smoke or the grease starts to boil in the pan, turn the burner off. Even a small amount of oil on a hot burner can start a fire.

Defense

Stay awake and alert while cooking. Stand by the pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. Keep a large pan lid or baking sheet nearby in case you need to smother a pan fire.

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Prevent burns when cooking. Wear short sleeves, or roll them up. Don't lean over the burner. Use potholders and oven mitts to handle hot or steaming cookware.

Defensive linemen

Children need constant adult supervision. If there are young children in the home, keep them 3 feet from anything that can become hot, including the stove. Put hot objects and liquids beyond children's reach so they can't touch or pull them down. Never hold a child when cooking.

Touchdown!

Keep safety in mind when serving on game day, too. If you light candles, position them out of reach of children and away from anything that can burn. Consider using flameless candles that are lit by battery power instead.

Food warmers and slow cookers become hot. Place them toward the back of the serving table so they won't be knocked off. Provide hot pads to prevent burns. Light the chafing dish fuel can after it is placed under the warmer. Make sure nothing comes into contact with the flame.

If young children are in the home, supervise them, and keep matches and lighters locked away.

Citizens with questions about fire safety during a Super Bowl party or questions about a particular decoration should call the Arkansas City Fire-EMS Department at (620) 441-4430.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) recommends that everyone have a comprehensive fire protection plan, including smoke alarms, residential sprinklers and practicing a home fire escape plan.

For more fire safety information, visit USFA at www.usfa.fema.gov/index.html, or follow USFA on Twitter at @USfire and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/usfire.