

ST. JOHN'S FIRE DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS:

ERIC P. BRITTON, Chair
SAMUEL BROWNLEE, Vice-Chair
J. BARRY HART
SUSANNE HOLLOMAN
THOMAS KULICK
DON M. RIVERS
H. ALBERT THOMPSON
CRAIG WEAVER
JOHN OLSON

P.O. BOX 56
3327 Maybank Hwy.
JOHNS ISLAND, S.C. 29455
PHONE: (843) 559-9194
FAX: (843) 559-3687



Colleen Walz
Fire Chief

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 28, 2013

Ref: PR 13-28

Fire Prevention Division
St. Johns Fire and Rescue Department
(843) 559-9194 (Headquarters)

St. Johns Fire District Reminds Residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires'

Johns Island, September 28, 2013— It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from October 6-12 St. Johns Fire District is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind local residents to 'Prevent Kitchen Fires.' During this year's fire safety campaign, fire departments 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.

According to the latest NFPA research, 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 home fire-related injuries.

Often when firefighters are called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents state that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes. Sadly, that's all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will help us reach folks in the community before they've suffered a damaging lesson.

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.
- Never move a pot or pan that is on fire. Use a lid to extinguish the fire.

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.

St. Johns Fire District will be holding daily events during Fire Prevention Week at each of our stations culminating in our Annual Fire Prevention Day at the Piggly Wiggly at Main Rd and Maybank Hwy. The events at the stations will include fire trucks, station tours, fire extinguisher training, fire safety materials and Sparky. Our Fire Prevention Day Event will include all of this and the Fire Safety House, law enforcement, EMS, CERT, Chaplains, a jump castle, hot dogs and ice cream.

St. Johns Fire District will be holding events on the following dates and at the following locations:

- **10/6** Fire Prevention Day Station 1
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 3327 Maybank Hwy – Johns Island

- **10/7** Fire Prevention Day Station 2
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 1025 Captain Sam’s Rd – Seabrook Island

- **10/8** Fire Prevention Day Station 3
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 1932 Liberia Rd – Wadmalaw Island

- **10/9** Fire Prevention Day Station 5
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 4550 River Rd – Johns Island

- **10/10** Fire Prevention Day Station 6
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 66 Ocean Course Dr – Kiawah Island

- **10/11** Fire Prevention Day Station 7
 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
 - 1142 Main Rd – Johns Island

- **10/12** Fire Prevention Day Station 4
 - 11:00am-1:00pm
 - 12 Sora Rail Rd – Kiawah Island

- **10/12** Fire Prevention Day @ Piggly Wiggly
 - 4:00pm-8:00pm
 - Corner of Main Rd and Maybank Hwy – Johns Island

Contact:

Battalion Chief James Ghi
St. Johns Fire District
Fire Prevention Division
(843) 296-8392 j.ghi@stjfd.org

Captain Chad Kelly
St. Johns Fire District
Fire Prevention Division
(843) 864-4384 c.kelly@stjfd.org

###