LET'S TALK FIRE SAFETY

Valdosta Fire Department

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Thanksgiving Safety

Thanksgiving Facts:

Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with three times the average number.

According to data from the USFA, an estimated 2,000 Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings occur annually in the United States, resulting in an estimated average of five deaths, 25 injuries, and $21 million in property loss each year.

The leading cause of all Thanksgiving Day fires in residential buildings is cooking.

These fires occur most frequently in the afternoon hours from noon to 4 p.m.

Smoke alarms were not present in 20 percent of Thanksgiving Day fires that occurred in occupied residential buildings.

Local Statistics

In 2016 on Thanksgiving Day, VFD responded to a total of 10 calls of which one was a house fire, one was a fire alarm, two were grass fires and the rest were a number of other good intent calls.

Safety Tips

- Ensure that you have working smoke alarms throughout your home.
- Never leave cooking unattended.
- If you plan on using a turkey fryer, be sure that you have read all the instructions before use.
- Heat cooking oil slowly and watch it closely; it can ignite quickly.
- It is a good idea to have a fire extinguisher handy in your home and ready for use at all times.
- Keep oven food packaging and other combustibles away from burners and heat sources.

Always Remember

- Don't wear loose sleeves while working over hot stove burners - they can melt, ignite or catch on handles of pots and pans spilling hot oil and other liquids.
- Never use a turkey fryer indoors or on decks.

U.S. Fire Administration

https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2010/11/24/thanksgiving-safety-tips-us-fire-administration-usfa

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.
~John F. Kennedy

Be extra cautious when cooking. Have a "kid-free zone" of at least three-feet around the stove and areas where hot foods or drinks are prepared or carried.

Deep-fried turkey has become a favorite Thanksgiving tradition in many households. But if used improperly, an overloaded fryer can easily tip over and set an entire house ablaze. Be sure to use deep fryers outdoors and on flat surfaces to reduce accidental tipping.

Have a fire safety question you would like for the Fire Department to answer? Please contact Ms. Tangela Rowe at 229-333-1835 or you can send an email to:

valdostafire@valdostacity.com

Solve the Fire Wuzzles

WUZZLES are word puzzles consisting of combinations of words, letters, figures or symbols positioned to create disguised words, phrases, names, places, sayings, etc.

For example, the solution to NOON GOOD is "Good afternoon" and LINE READ LINE is "Read between the lines."

____SHIP ICEBERG
↑

_____ _____

Answers to last month's wuzzles are I understand and countdown.

Fire Safety Quiz

1. It's okay to extinguish a grease fire using water.

A. True

B. False

2. When did the turkey become the Thanksgiving Day symbol?

A. 1776

B. 1621

C. 1902

D. 1843

Answers to last month's quiz are 1. B. & 2. C.

Freddie D. Broome, Fire Chief