



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Storm Smith, PIO, 503-681-6273, 503-615-6666 pager



(Safety Tips for Turkey Fryers)

In an effort to inject some variety in their Thanksgiving meals, some home chefs are choosing to use outdoor propane deep fryers as a different way to prepare their turkey dinner. This is a cooking method popular in the southern United States that has been featured on several cooking TV shows and has spread northward. Hillsboro Fire & Rescue encourages citizens to follow turkey fryer directions carefully and use extreme caution for several reasons:

- When filled, many outdoor fryer units can easily tip over spilling the hot oil
- If the pot is overfilled, the oil may spill out producing a flash fire
- Partially frozen turkeys placed in hot oil can produce a violent eruption splashing hot oil out of the pot
- With most units having no thermostat to regulate temperature, turkey fryers can continue to heat the oil to combustion temperatures
- The sides and handles of the pot get dangerously hot

If you choose to deep fry your turkey, follow these safety tips to help ensure you have a safe Thanksgiving meal:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use
- Never overfill the fryer with oil
- Keep an all purpose (ABC) fire extinguisher nearby when the fryer is in use – Remember, water and hot oil do not mix!
- Ensure your turkey is thoroughly thawed in the refrigerator prior to use (thaw at least 24 hours in the refrigerator for every five pounds of turkey)
- Always position your turkey fryer outdoors on solid ground or concrete away from your home
- Never place your turkey fryer on a wooden deck, under a carport or in a garage
- Keep children and pets away from the fryer during and for several hours after use as the oil can remain dangerously hot for a lengthy time

- Never leave the fryer during use since they do not have a thermostat and can heat oil past its ignition temperature
- Use well-insulated oven mitts or potholders to handle the pot or lid

For more fire and life safety information, visit: www.ci.hillsboro.or.us/fire or call 503-681-6166.

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