



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

So, you may have heard of the Chicago Fire television show, but have you heard of the real Chicago fire that was in October of 1871? It was huge! 17,450 buildings burned, 300 people died and over 100,000 left homeless – can you imagine the devastation! In remembrance of this, there is an extra effort in October to stress fire prevention.

The number one cause of fires in residential buildings is from cooking incidences.

- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended.
- ✓ Always keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.
- ✓ Keep anything that can catch fire (potholders, dish towels) away from your stovetop.

Important items to have in your home:

- ✓ Smoke detector - Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher – Keep at least 1 fire extinguisher easily accessible, either in the kitchen or laundry room. It takes a while for a fire department to actually arrive, so you can possibly put out a beginning fire yourself and prevent a small fire from becoming an engulfment.

Tips to help prevent fires in areas where you may work:

- ✓ Avoid multi-plug adapters – Cheap adapters can overload an outlet. Use a power strip with a fuse or circuit breaker instead.
- ✓ Extension cords are for temporary use:
 - Unplug them when not in use.
 - Consider adding a permanent outlet where needed instead.
 - Inspect extension cords for cuts, worn areas or missing end prongs.
- ✓ Keep equipment clean; hot exhaust or bearing areas can catch dry debris on fire:
 - Clean off mower & clipper decks after each use.
 - Routinely remove skid plates to clean out debris from vehicles, UTVs and other equipment.
- ✓ Protect wiring on accessories:
 - For example, auxiliary lights & spray equipment wiring should always be fused.
 - Route and use protective loom to prevent wire insulation from becoming damaged.

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Sources:

<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/#causesNR>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZhvmqYniA>