



GENERAL INFORMATION
(209) 577-5200

TTD
(209) 526-9211

WEBSITE
www.modestogov.com

OCTOBER 2006

Watch What You Heat

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, according to the latest research by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). One out of three home fires begin in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home.

As a result, the Modesto Fire Department is joining forces with NFPA to remind local residents to ***‘Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat.’*** During this year’s

fire safety campaign, we will be spreading the word about the dangers of cooking fires, most of which result from unattended cooking, and teaching local residents how to prevent cooking fires from starting in the first place.

“Often when we’re called to a fire that started in the kitchen, the residents tell us that they only left the kitchen for a few minutes,” said Modesto Fire Department Fire Marshal Mike Payton. “Sadly, that’s all it takes for a dangerous fire to start. We hope that this fire prevention campaign will help us reach folks in the community before they’ve suffered a damaging lesson.”

Like any home fire, cooking fires spread quickly, leaving you just minutes to safely escape. Follow these tips for safer cooking:

- Most fires in the kitchen occur because cooking is left unattended. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food.
- If you leave the kitchen, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, boiling, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of 3 feet around the stove.
- When young children are in the home, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible and turn pot handles back to reduce the risk that pots will be knocked over.
- Never hold a small child while cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stove top.
- Clean food and grease off burners and the stove top.
- Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire if it comes in

Continued on back, see HEAT...

America Recycles Day November 15, 2006

This annual event brings an awareness to the importance of recycling and buying products made from recycled materials. Make a pledge to recycle more at www.americarecyclesday.org and you could win a 7-night Alaskan Cruise for two.

Here’s how recycling works: there are three basic parts to the recycling process, each one essential to making the system work - collection, manufacturing and buying. These components are represented by the three “chasing arrows” of the recycling logo.

Collection - Don’t send recyclables to the landfill!

In this phase, materials are separated from the waste stream and prepared to become raw materials. The City of Modesto offers a residential Blue Bag Recycling Program and is home to many Buy-Back Recycling Centers.

Manufacturing - Use recycled materials instead of virgin raw materials.

Recovering the materials is just the first step, there must be a market for it, too. Sometimes companies must invest significant resources to remanufacture recycled consumer products.

Buying - “Close The Loop” by buying products with recycled content.

In order to make recycling economically viable, there must be a market for recycled products. If people buy them, companies will be encouraged to make them, allowing the system to work.

Glass bottles become new roads, marbles, tiles and surfboards. Plastic bottles become new rugs, goggles, park benches and fences. Recycled steel and aluminum become new cars, bikes, appliances and cookware. The recycling process uses about 75% less energy than using virgin materials!

To learn more about America Recycles Day and to make your pledge to recycle more, go to www.americarecyclesday.org. Drawing for Alaskan Cruise to be held on December 15, 2006.

Keep America beautiful by reducing, reusing, recycling and buying recycled.

HEAT, continued from front

contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

- Plug the microwave oven directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a microwave as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.
- Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food.
- Allow food to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the microwave.
- Open microwaved containers slowly as hot steam escaping from the containers can cause painful burns. Be sure to let food and liquid cool before eating.
- Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause a fire or burn hazard and damage the oven.

While the following tips can help you put out a small kitchen fire, never forget how dangerous fire can be. If you are unable to put out the fire, get out of the home and call the fire department. ***When in doubt, get out!***

- If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. Unplug the appliance if you can safely reach the outlet.
- Always keep an oven mitt and lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (*make sure you are wearing the oven mitt*). Turn off the burner. To keep the fire from restarting, don't remove the lid until the pan is completely cool.
- In case of an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of an emergency. Make sure that you know what type of fire the extinguisher will put out and how it works before an emergency occurs.

Daylight savings time ends October 29 - when you change your clock, change the batteries in your smoke detector, too.

Tracie Dutter

Fire Inspector

Modesto Fire Department

Reproduced from NFPA's Fire Prevention Week web site,
www.firepreventionweek.org. ©2006 NFPA.

BULKY ITEM PROGRAM

Please be aware there will be no Bulky Item Program appointments scheduled for the following dates: **October 31, November 1, November 22-24 and December 25-29.**

Please schedule your appointments accordingly.



Charter Review Committee

Earlier this year, the Modesto City Council established the Modesto Charter Review Committee to review, analyze and propose changes to the City's Charter. The City Charter functions as a local constitution establishing principles, outlining powers and responsibilities of the City government.

The private citizens who compose the Committee have made it their mission to ensure that the City Charter provides the best organization, powers and essential procedures for a good City government. To achieve this, members of the Committee are asking the citizens of Modesto for their input.

The Committee will be holding a series of public meetings to gather information and opinions from members of the community. The public meetings are intended to serve as an open forum for all residents to express their concerns and ideas directly to the members of the Committee.

Members of the public are also encouraged to visit the Committee's website located at www.modestogov.com/charterreview. The website contains information on meetings times and locations, committee minutes and agendas as well as helpful links to literature on the review process. Visitors can also electronically send suggestions and inquire through the online suggestion box.

The Committee has also formed a speaker's bureau for organizations who want to learn more about and participate in the charter review process. Members of local civic and service organizations are invited to attend committee meetings and form task forces to work with the Committee.

To find out more about the Modesto Charter Review Committee please contact Bryan Whitemyer at the City of Modesto at 571-5580 or by email at bwhitemyer@modestogov.com.

NOVEMBER HOLIDAY GARBAGE ROUTES

During the week of Thanksgiving, garbage routes will run one day late **for all Thursday and Friday customers.** Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday, and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday.

Questions? Call the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494.