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PHILADELPHIA FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Derrick J.V. Sawyer
Fire Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Philadelphia, PA: The Philadelphia Fire Department wants to ensure that citizens practice safe cooking during the holiday season. On Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 12:00 p.m., Fire Commissioner Derrick J.V. Sawyer will team up with local firefighters to demonstrate the proper use of a turkey fryer and share cooking safety tips for the upcoming holiday season. The exhibition will take place at Engine Company 50 Fire Station, located at 1325 W. Cambria Street.

During 2014, the leading cause of structure fires in the city was found to be cooking equipment. Cooking incidents accounted for 810 structure fires last year, so far this year cooking incidents have accounted for 824 structure fires. As a result of these statistics, the Philadelphia Fire Department's fire prevention theme for 2015 has been **"COOKING HAZARDS ENDANGER FAMILIES (C.H.E.F.)"**.

Fire Commissioner Sawyer stated, "Educating people on the proper use of cooking equipment and turkey fryers is the best way to prevent holiday cooking accidents."

Fire Commissioner Sawyer reminds everyone to follow these safety tips:

- **Never leave cooking food on the stovetop unattended**
- **Keep cooking areas clean and clear of materials that could catch fire, such as potholders, towels, rags, drapes, and food packaging**
- **Keep stove top and oven range clean to avoid grease fires**
- **Keep a dry oven mitt or potholder handy**
- **If a grease fire occurs, put on the mitt, cover the pan with a lid and turn off the burner**
- **Keep an eye on food cooking inside the oven**
- **If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the oven door closed**
- **Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors, a safe distance from buildings.**
- **Make sure turkey fryer is placed on a level surface to prevent accidental tipping over.**
- **Make sure your turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades; hot oil and water don't mix and could cause oil to overflow. Ease turkey into hot oil carefully, expect oil to bubble.**

Fire Commissioner Sawyer wishes to remind all that Fire is Everyone's Fight: Be Safe and S.M.A.R.T.

Smoke Alarms – Make a Plan – Accountability – Resist Re-entry – Two Ways Out



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