



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

NEWS RELEASE

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Unattended Cooking Causes 3-Alarm Fire

Houston Fire Department Arson Investigators determined that unattended cooking was the cause of a 3-alarm apartment fire in west Houston on February 1, 2009.

HFD was dispatched to an apartment fire at the Pathway Apartments, 2901 Elmside, just after 11:30pm on February 1, 2009. More than 140 HFD personnel responded to the three alarm fire which caused an estimated \$300,000 in structural damage. The fire was tapped out in just over an hour, with no reported injuries.

Both national and local statistics show that unattended cooking is the number one cause of preventable fires in the home. The City of Houston had more than 35 reported fires in January 2009 caused by unattended cooking.

It is better to prevent a fire than to deal with one. HFD reminds citizens of these simple safety tips to keep in mind when cooking:

- Turn pot handles away from the front of the stove and never position them over another burner
- Make sure pot holders are not too close to the stove
- NEVER leave cooking food unattended
- Wear short sleeves or tight-fitting long sleeves
- Shield yourself from scalding steam when lifting lids from hot pots
- Keep broilers, ovens, stove tops and exhaust ducts free from grease
- If there is a fire in the oven-Turn off the oven and keep the oven door closed
- Use an ABC fire extinguisher, baking soda or a tight-fitting pot lid, NEVER flour or water, to extinguish a kitchen fire
- Never use cooking appliances for other reasons than attended, such as turning on a stove or oven for heating the home.
- ALWAYS have a working smoke detector

Additional safety topics and tips may be found on the HFD website at www.houstonfire.org

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Help Us Help You.
Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!

