

Article for November 26, 2014

Happy Thanksgiving! My guess is that most of you are planning to enjoy a fantastic feast with friends and family this week! It's a wonderful time of year! It's a time of year when many large meals are prepared, campfires are shared, and fireplaces are lit, too!

Not to be negative, but FEMA tells us that Thanksgiving is the peak day for home fires involving cooking equipment. However, I have full faith and confidence in all of you that you are preparing your meals and celebrations with the utmost safety!

Just to keep you on your toes – and help protect yourself and your loved ones – please test your smoke alarms to make sure they are working before you begin the holiday season! Always keep children at least three feet away from the stove; and keep an eye on what you are cooking.

If you are some of the lucky folks who will be enjoying a deep-fried turkey this year, please use even more caution! Fryers could tip over, overheat, or spill hot oil! Use extra caution when placing the bird in the hot oil and especially when removing it! Make sure it is fully defrosted before introducing the turkey to the hot oil! That hot oil is probably near a temperature of 350 degrees. Cooking oil is combustible, and if it's heated beyond its cooking temperature, its vapors can ignite! Make sure your frying device is working properly and have temperature controls in place.

Be sure to position your fryer in a safe place, away from combustibles and leave a clear path around the fryer. There are several websites that give good advice on turkey frying. One of my favorites shows the lowering and raising of the turkey into and from the grease using an aluminum step ladder! That ladder not only provides a base for a pulley system for the turkey, but also acts as a barrier to prevent people from getting too close to the fryer.

Another option is to let Santa visit a little early and enjoy the use of an outdoor turkey cooking appliance that does not use oil. Several of these models are available and could result in a delicious fried turkey to share with your friends and family, while giving thanks for all that you have been blessed with!

Whatever option you choose to use to prepare your holiday meals and celebrations, enjoy yourselves and Be Safe Out There!