



## Fire Safety Tips from Loudoun's Combined Fire & Rescue System

**Be alert for failing batteries... Prevent extension cord failures... Kitchen cooking safety**

Sent: February 4, 2022

**Loudoun's Combined Fire & Rescue (LCFR) System responded to 4,255 house fires in the last six months of 2021!**

**Working Smoke Alarms Save Many Lives!  
(Check Yours Monthly)**

**Please test and clean your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. Need Help doing so? Request a FREE smoke alarm check conducted by LCFR [here](#).** During the FREE visit, LCFR personnel will ensure your home is adequately protected by working smoke alarms and will provide additional fire safety information.

### **Battery safety tips!**

Five recent Loudoun fires began due to battery failure. Four were attributed to the failure of a Lithium Ion battery. **Inspect your**

**batteries (toys, tools, cell phone batteries, electric vehicle batteries, and other battery powered items) often for visible signs of damage.** Here are some warning signs that your Lithium Ion batter may be damaged:

- The battery appears swollen or bloated.
- The battery is overheating.
- The battery's case is cracked or broken.
- The battery's self-discharging rate is high.
- The battery's capacity is reduced.
- The battery is overcharged.

**IMPORTANT: Lithium Ion batteries can experience a heat reaction causing them to catch fire or explode if damaged, dropped, crushed, overly heated or overcharged.** Properly dispose of suspected damaged batteries. Do not put them in your trash can as they can start a fire. Click [here](#) for information on Loudoun's Household Hazardous Waste Collection events.

### **Extension Chord Safety Tips!**

Roughly 3,300 house fires are caused by extension cords each year, according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International. **Here are some extension cord safety tips:**

- Do not overload extension cords.
- Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring and outlets.
- Do not put more than one appliance on an extension cord.
- Make sure the extension cord or temporary power strip is rated for the products that will be plugged into it and it is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- Make sure the wattage rating of the appliance matches the rating on the extension cord. Do not use a cord with a lower rating than the appliance.
- Inspect cords for damage before use, including cracked or frayed sockets, exposed or bare wires, and loose connections.

- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way.
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Power Strip Device: Do not plug a power strip into another power strip in order to plug in more devices. This is called "daisy-chaining" and can very easily overload the circuit and start an electrical fire.

### **Kitchen Cooking Safety Tips!**

Unattended cooking is often a cause of expensive and potentially deadly home fires. **Follow these steps to prevent cooking fires and know what to do if a fire does occur:**

- **Watch what you heat! Always remain in the kitchen while cooking, especially on the stovetop.** If you leave the kitchen, even briefly, turn off the stove. If baking, roasting, or broiling, set timers to remind you food is cooking.
  - Maintain a three-foot safety zone for kids and pets around stove and hot appliances.
  - **Keep combustibles, like oven mitts, utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains, away from your stovetop.**
  - If you have a fire on the stovetop, slide a lid on the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner. Do not remove the lid until the pan is completely cooled. **Never pour water on a grease fire!**
  - For an oven fire, immediately turn off the heat and close the oven door.
  - When in doubt, get out then call 9-1-1! Close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
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# Loudoun County

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All our best!

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