



Protecting local
communities

Contact:

Rachel Morrow
Public Relations Office
Fire Brigade Headquarters
Endeavour House
Stockton Road
HARTLEPOOL
TS25 5TB

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PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (01429) 872311 Ext. 4035

Fax: (01429) 874072

E-Mail: rmorrow@clevelandfire.gov.uk

FIRE CHIEFS CONCERNED OVER INCREASED NUMBERS OF ACCIDENTAL HOUSE FIRES

FIRES that are cooking related are causing a major concern in Stockton with a spate of six occurring in only 14 days in the month of April.

Fire Chiefs are urging residents to be extra vigilant when cooking and take the following precautions to ensure there are no more accidents.

- Get rid of old fashioned chip pans and opt for a safer thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer
- Ensure that grill pans are cleaned after use and that cooking fats are not allowed to build up in the grill
- If a pan catches fire, don't take risks – get everyone out of your home and call the Fire Brigade.
- Turn off the heat under the pan if it's safe to do so and allow it to cool completely
- Don't leave pans on the hob when you're not around. Take them off the heat if you have to leave the kitchen.
- In the event of a power cut or failure of your fuel supply, make sure any alternative cooking equipment to be used is working properly and safely before use.

Ian Harrington, Stockton District Manager said: "By taking extra care when cooking these types of fires could be avoided.

"This sudden increase in cooking related incidents is a worry but thankfully there has been no one seriously hurt or killed, however, any of the recent incidents certainly could have turned out very different.

"As well as taking precautions, working smoke alarms are a must as they can give you early warning of a fire to give you time to get out. I would urge anyone who either doesn't have one or if it the one you have isn't working to give us a ring and we will come and fit them for free as part of a Home Fire Safety Visit. To arrange one please call 01429 874063."

For more information please contact Ian Harrington on 01429 872311

Press release issued by Rachel Morrow, Public Relations Assistant. Contact on 01429 872311