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Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home, and usually the place where everyone congregates during a gathering. Sadly, it's also the room where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during the time of year that is supposed to be the happiest—the holidays.

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are traditionally celebrated with special meals. Safety should always be considered in the kitchen, but during the holidays when the kitchen produces more meals and receives more visitors, extra caution is advised.

As we embark on the holiday season, Coleman County Electric Cooperative urges you to remember these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- ▶ Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you leave the room.
- ▶ Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least 3 feet away from all cooking appliances.
- ▶ To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners as often as possible, and turn the pot handles inward, away from reaching hands.
- ▶ Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- ▶ Remember to thoroughly clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- ▶ Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- ▶ Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- ▶ Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- ▶ Plug countertop appliances into outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid electric shocks caused by contact with water.
- ▶ Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- ▶ Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- ▶ Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.

For more important safety tips to keep yourself and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit esfi.org.

Coleman County Electric Cooperative

3300 N. Highway 84 • P.O. Box 860
Coleman, TX 76834

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Coleman, Coke, Concho, Runnels, Taylor and Tom Green counties

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Coleman County EC will be closed Thursday, November 27, and Friday, November 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Crews will be on standby in case of outages.

We wish you and yours a safe and happy Thanksgiving!