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**!! FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE !!**

## **Superstition Fire & Medical District reminds everyone to use extra caution in the kitchen this Thanksgiving**

### **Three times as many fires occur on Thanksgiving as on a typical day**

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. When most of us think about Thanksgiving, images of turkey, stuffing and time spent with loved ones typically come to mind, not fire hazards. However, an increased risk of fire is, in fact, a reality of Thanksgiving.

The National Fire Protection Association's latest estimates show that there were 1,550 cooking fires on Thanksgiving in 2013, reflecting a 230 percent increase over the daily average.

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of these fires. Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food. Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently. Keep things that can catch fire such as oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels and curtains away from the cooking area, and be alert when cooking. If you're sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.

Make sure your smoke alarms are in good working order.

Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Have activities that keep them out of the kitchen during this busy time. Games, puzzles or books can keep them busy.

For more information on how to keep your Thanksgiving fire safe, please call us at (480) 982-4440, or visit <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/seasonal/thanksgiving-safety>

From our family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving.

If you would like to know more about the SFMD, please visit our web site at [www.sfmd.az.gov](http://www.sfmd.az.gov)

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