Parents and Caregivers,
Cooking is the No. 1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. This year's Fire Prevention Week™ (FPW) campaign, “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!”™, works to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe.

FPW is a perfect time to complete this cooking safety checklist together. If you checked YES on all the boxes, great job! If some boxes are checked NO, work together as a family to turn them into a YES.

The Family's Cooking Safety Checklist

- Does a grown-up always pay attention to things that are cooking?
- Does a grown-up watch the stovetop when he or she is frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food?
- If a grown-up must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, does he or she turns off the burner?
- Are things that can burn, such as dish towels, curtains, or paper, away from the stovetop?
- Are the stovetop, burners, and oven clean — no spilled food, grease, paper or bags?
- Are pot handles turned toward the back of the stove when a grown-up is cooking?
- Do children and pets stay out of the kid-free zone (3 feet or 1 meter from the stove) when a grown-up is cooking?
- Are containers opened slowly when removing from the microwave? Hot steam can escape from containers and cause burns.
- Does your family have working smoke alarms on every level of the home, outside all sleeping areas, and in each bedroom?
- Does your family have a home fire escape plan?
- Do you practice the plan?