

For Immediate Release

Recent Tragedies in the Province Reinforce Need for Safer Cooking Practices

Cambridge, Ontario. December 20, 2010...The Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) team is reminding residents to be safe during the holidays especially around the kitchen. Unattended cooking fires are the leading cause of residential blazes in the province.

In Ontario, cooking fires were responsible for the deaths of three people and the serious injury of two more over the past few weeks. What's worse is that these fires were easily preventable, and the CFD team is urging residents to stay in the kitchen when cooking and do not leave items unattended.

"It can be very easy to become distracted and called away from the kitchen especially during the holiday season where everyone is busy with family and friends," says Damond Jamieson, Captain and Public Education Officer for the Cambridge Fire Department. Jamieson adds that "Cambridge experienced 19 cooking fires in 2009 with fire damages valued at \$593,800."

Important steps to prevent cooking fires include:

- Stay in the kitchen while you cook, particularly if you are using oil or high temperatures. If you must leave for any reason, turn off the stove.
- Keep combustible items such as cooking utensils and paper towels a safe distance from your stove. They can easily ignite if they are too close to a burner.
- Keep a tight-fitting lid near the stove when cooking. If a pot catches fire, slide the lid over the pot and turn off the stove.
- Drink responsibly and keep an eye on those who do not. Excessive alcohol use often is a contributing factor in many residential fires.

Have a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on the Cambridge Fire Department including fire prevention, visit www.cambridge.ca. A reminder that there is now a streamlined process for fire headquarters' switchboard; the primary telephone number is (519) 621-6001 for citizens to contact the administrative staff. In the event of an emergency dial 911.

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The City of Cambridge is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. It is strategically located astride highway 401 in Southwestern Ontario, part of Canada's Technology Triangle. In 2010, the population reached over 130,000 people with a multicultural mix and a strong foundation of support services. Cambridge has a diverse economic base with leading industries in manufacturing, automotive, high technology, pharmaceutical, business and financial services and hospitality/retail. The Corporation of the City of Cambridge is an employer with a work environment that offers the opportunity to provide service to the community through creativity and innovation, and with opportunities for career growth and advancement.

For more information on the area or the corporation visit www.cambridge.ca
The City of Cambridge press room is located at <http://www.cambridge.ca/article.php?sid=176>

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