KITCHEN FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY

INTRODUCTION

Kitchens are a very common place for accidental fires to start because there are many heat sources and ignition sources in a kitchen. Fire prevention must be actively practiced at all times while in a kitchen to reduce this risk. Some of the methods of prevention and firefighting are outlined below.

KITCHEN FIRE PREVENTION

Of course, before knowing how to fight an accidental fire, you should be knowledgeable on how to prevent one as well. Practicing these prevention steps will help reduce the risk of a fire completely.

- Thoroughly remove spilled foods from the oven, microwave, and burners before turning them on. Any leftover or spilled food materials may ignite when introduced to a heat source.
- Do not leave any heat source unattended while cooking.
- Do not wear loose or baggy clothing when in the kitchen.
- Keep towels and pot holders clear from any areas where grease may splatter.
- Do not over load the electrical outlets with cords of the kitchen appliances.
- Inspect the electrical cords regularly for damaged outer coating.
- Make sure there are properly working smoke detectors installed where necessary.

GREASE FIRES

If you witness a spark turn into a small flame, you may take fire extinguishing measures quickly before it gets out of control. However, the proper authorities should be called for large fires. This is true no matter what kind of fire has been started. If it is small enough to manage, the following steps can be taken:

1. Call the fire department and activate any fire alarm systems that the building may be equipped with to alert others to evacuate.
2. Turn off the heat source, if possible.

3. If you have a class ABC or class K fire extinguisher and know how to use it, perform the appropriate steps as you have been trained.

When fighting a grease fire, DO NOT:

- Throw water on the fire.
- Fan the fire in an attempt to put it out.
- Attempt to relocate the container with the grease fire.

ELECTRICAL FIRES

Many of the basic emergency steps are the same for fighting grease fires and electrical fires. Once again, do not attempt to put out the fire by yourself unless it is a manageable size. Instead of using a class K fire extinguisher, electrical fires require either a class ABC or class C fire extinguisher to put them out.

DO NOT do any of the following with an electrical fire:

- Pour water on the fire.
- Attempt to fight the fire before the power source has been de-energized.

CONCLUSION

Make sure you are familiar with the emergency procedures that can be taken in the event of a fire. Be familiar with what you can do to prevent a fire, as well as how to fight a fire in the unfortunate event that one should occur.