



NEWS RELEASE

JOHN OXENDINE
COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER
INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMMISSIONER
COMPTROLLER GENERAL

Seventh Floor, West Tower
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
www.gainsurance.org

For Immediate Release
November 24, 2010

Contact: Glenn Allen or Wayne Whitaker
404-651-7902
inscomm@oci.ga.gov

OXENDINE URGES CAUTION WITH HOLIDAY COOKING

Atlanta – Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John W. Oxendine urges Georgians to use caution with holiday cooking, and when they heat up leftovers on the stove after the holidays are over.

“In past years we’ve had numerous fatal fires which were cooking-related,” Oxendine said. “Many fires are caused by a stove that has been accidentally left on.”

Oxendine suggested the following tips for cooking safety:

- Always set a timer when cooking, so you never forget to turn off the burners or oven.
- If a pan catches fire, cover it with a lid immediately and turn off the burner. Don’t attempt to fight a grease fire with water, as it may make the fire worse.
- Wear tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can contact a burner and ignite. If this happens, remember “stop, drop and roll.” Stop where you are, cover your face with your hands, and roll over to smother the flames.
- Never use a cooking stove to heat your home.
- Install an adequate number of smoke alarms. Most fatal fires start between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., while the family is asleep. The advance warning of a smoke alarm may mean the difference between life and death. Nine out of ten fire victims are already dead before the fire department is even called, mainly from smoke and toxic gases.
- Each household should have a well-rehearsed family escape plan. All rooms, especially bedrooms, should have two escape routes. Have a predetermined meeting place outside the house to ensure everyone is out safely.
- Have a fire extinguisher readily available. The dry chemical kind of extinguisher is usually safe for both grease and electrical fires. If a small fire is caught in time, you may be able to quickly put it out.
- If the fire is too large for an extinguisher, get out of the house and stay out. Do not go back inside. Call the fire department from a neighbor’s house.

###