



WHEREAS, the City of Iowa Colony, Texas is committed to ensuring the safety and security of all those living in and visiting Iowa Colony; and

WHEREAS, fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, and homes are the locations where people are at greatest risk from fire; and

WHEREAS, when the smoke alarm sounds, Iowa Colony residents may have less than two minutes to escape to safety.

WHEREAS, the 2023 Fire Prevention week theme, “Cooking Safety Starts With YOU. Pay Attention to Fire Prevention” reinforcing the critical importance of developing a home escape plan with all members of the household and practicing it regularly.

According to NFPA, cooking is the leading cause of home fires, with nearly half (49 percent) of all home fires involving cooking equipment; cooking is also the leading cause of home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires and related deaths. In addition, NFPA data shows that cooking is the only major cause of fire that resulted in more fires and fire deaths in 2014-2018 than in 1980-1984.

Following are cooking safety messages that support this year’s theme, “Cooking safety starts with YOU! Pay attention to fire prevention”:

Always keep a close eye on what you’re cooking. For foods with longer cook times, such as those that are simmering or baking, set a timer to help monitor them carefully.

Clear the cooking area of combustible items and keep anything that can burn, such as dish towels, oven mitts, food packaging, and paper towels.

Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Keep a lid nearby when cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner.

Create a “kid and pet free zone” of at least three feet (one meter) around the cooking area and anywhere else hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

Staying in the kitchen, using a timer, and avoiding distractions that remove your focus from what’s on the stove are among the key messages for this year’s Fire Prevention Week campaign.

THEREFORE, I Wil Kennedy, Mayor of Iowa Colony, do hereby proclaim the Month of October 2023, as Fire Prevention Month throughout this city, and I urge all the people of Iowa Colony to be aware of their surroundings, look for available ways out in the event of a fire, respond when the smoke alarm sounds and exit the building.

Dated This 16th day of October 2023.

Wil Kennedy, Mayor