

## **Pelham Fire Services Wants You to Stand By Your Pan**

Pelham Fire Services has recently responded to an increased number of fire calls caused by cooking. As a result, residents may be wondering how common this type of fire is and whether it could happen in their home.

Cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires in Ontario. According to the Office of the Fire Marshal, approximately 1,400 home fires involve cooking equipment each year. These fires result in hundreds of injuries, an average of eight deaths and millions in property damage annually.

Pelham Fire Services would like to help residents prevent these fires, injuries and losses. Together, we can reduce the number of cooking fires in Pelham.

Here are some cooking safety tips for you to follow:

- To prevent cooking fires, you must be alert. If you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy, do not attempt to cook.
- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling. Do not leave cooking food unattended.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.
- If a cooking fire occurs, and you have any doubt, get out of the home and call Fire Services.
- If you do try to fight the cooking fire, be sure others are already getting out and that they are calling Fire Services.
- If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- If a small grease fire starts in a pan, put on an oven mitt and slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames. Turn off the burner and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Make sure your home has working smoke alarms on every level, inside each sleeping room and outside the sleeping areas.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out of the home, and stay out.

### **Fire Prevention Week 2014**

Pelham Fire Services has a number of great activities planned for Fire Prevention Week 2014 to help educate our community about fire prevention. Visit us on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the Seniors' Health Fair at the Royal Canadian Legion, on October 9<sup>th</sup> at the Fonthill Farmers' Market and on October 10<sup>th</sup> the Pelham Library. We look forward to seeing you there!

Let's work together to help prevent tragedy in our community.

For additional information, please contact:  
Saskia Holditch, Fire Prevention Officer  
(905) 892-2607 ext. 202