

## Residents reminded to be fire-conscious in the kitchen after Wednesday house fire

**Feb. 18, 2021** — St. Catharines Fire Services is reminding residents to be aware of ignition sources in the kitchen after a Wednesday afternoon fire on Russell Avenue caused \$100,000 in damages.

Fire crews were called to the single-storey home around 4 p.m. on Feb. 17 to respond to a fire that started in the kitchen. Further investigation placed the cause of the fire as accidental. A combustible appliance that was set on the stove top temporarily during cleaning caught fire due to the burner accidentally being turned on.

“It only takes a moment for things to go wrong in the kitchen. With ignition sources such as ovens and burners, residents should always be fire safety conscious when in the kitchen,” said Fire Chief Jeff McCormick, adding, “even if they aren’t cooking they must avoid placing or storing anything combustible on the stove top or nearby.”

The home’s occupant had left the room and came back to observe smoke, then exited the building and called 911.

Cooking is one of the leading causes of fires in the home. Residents should be sure to make sure no flammable items such as rags, plastic utensils or paper towels are placed near hot surfaces.

Additionally, cooking should never be left unattended. If a pot does catch fire occupants should never try to move it, instead they should turn off the heat and cover the pot with a lid to extinguish the flames.

For more information on home fire safety visit [stcatharines.ca/FireSafety](http://stcatharines.ca/FireSafety).

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