

LET'S TALK TURKEY...A Holiday Fire Safety Message from the Office of the Long Hill Fire Marshal:

A potentially serious risk – and not just to turkeys – particularly during Thanksgiving and the Holidays is the use of home turkey fryers. There are at least 5 notable risks involved with frying a turkey:

1. Turkey fryers can easily tip over spilling hot oil across a large area.
2. An overfilled cooking pot will cause oil to spill over when the turkey is put inside.
3. A partially frozen turkey will cause hot oil to splatter when put in the pot.
4. Without thermostat controls, turkey fryers can overheat oil to the point of starting a fire.
5. The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles can get dangerously hot.

The good news (except for turkeys) is that there are a few simple measures that can be taken to prevent any accidents or injuries when using a turkey fryer to prepare the Holiday main course:

- Make sure your turkey fryer is on a sturdy, level surface and do not move it once it is in use.
- Make sure your turkey fryer is at least 10 feet from your home and not under roof eaves.
- Make sure your turkey is fully thawed without frost on it before you fry it. (USFA says 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds.)
- Consider using an electric or air fryer.
- If your turkey fryer does not have a thermostat, use a kitchen thermometer that attaches to the side of the pot. This will help you monitor the temperature of the oil.
- Test the amount of oil you need by filling your fryer with water. Place the turkey in the pot making sure the water covers the turkey by about ½ inch. Remove and dry turkey. Mark the water level. Dump water, dry the pot and fill with oil to the marked level.
- Always use protective oven mitts. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from the turkey fryer.

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, THERE'S ALWAYS MICROWAVABLE FROZEN TURKEY DINNERS (but don't expect many left-overs)

For more information or assistance regarding matters of fire safety, please contact:

Don Huber, Long Hill Fire Official at fireofficial@longhillnj.gov or by calling 908-657-8000 ext. 307



