

# CHARLESTON

FIRE DEPARTMENT



## Cooking Fire Injures One Civilian

**Contact:** Community Educator Ryan Kunitzer

**Phone:** 843-958-6401

**E-mail:** [kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:kunitzerr@charleston-sc.gov)

Charleston, SC (May 2, 2014): Members from the Charleston Fire Department, Saint Andrews Fire Department, Charleston County EMS, and the Charleston Police Department responded yesterday evening, May 1, 2014, to a reported structure fire at Plantation Apartments, located on Carriage Lane, in West Ashley. Units arrived on scene at 9:38 PM and reported the fire was extinguished but some smoke remained in the apartment unit.

An occupant of the apartment was using cooking oil in a pot on the stovetop in the kitchen. The occupant left the kitchen and when she returned she discovered a fire in the pot. She took the pot off of the stove and placed it into the sink. The occupant turned on the faucet causing water to mix with the hot oil causing it to splatter. The occupant received burns to her hands and was transported by EMS to a local hospital. The kitchen in the apartment received some smoke damage; fire damage was contained to the cooking container.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, an estimated 165,000 cooking fires occur in residential buildings each year in the United States. The Charleston Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to pass along these safety tips:

- Never leave food or cooking oils unattended. Always stay in the kitchen while cooking.
- Be alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol do not use the stove or oven.
- Never use water on a grease fire. Water can spread the fire and splash hot grease causing burn injuries. If you can do so safely, turn off the burners and place a lid over the pot or pan. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby to extinguish small fires.
- If you discover a fire, alert occupants immediately. If you cannot safely extinguish the fire, evacuate the structure and dial 9-1-1 after you leave.
- Install and maintain smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside and outside of each sleeping areas.

###