

District Council's crackdown on fly tippers

Despite challenging financial times, Sevenoaks District Council has recently appointed an Environmental Enforcement Officer to investigate fly-tipping offences across the District. Many householders are not aware need to check that the contractor they use to dispose of their rubbish is licensed to carry such waste and that it will be taken to a licenced disposal facility.

Since May 2016, enforcement officers can issue a fixed penalty notice of £400 as an alternative to court prosecution to those proven to have fly-tipped waste. If you see someone fly-tipping the following details are useful, but you should never put yourself at risk gathering this information.



- The name and address of the person tipping the waste, if known;
- A full description of the incident, including the precise location and any vehicle registration numbers, identifying names, markings or phone numbers;
- A full description of the waste and whether you actually witnessed it being deposited;
- The time and date of the fly-tipping.

The Environmental Enforcement Officer will be working closely with Town and Parish representatives, neighbouring Council Enforcement Officers, Kent County Council and the Environment Agency to gather evidence and share intelligence. If you wish to report fly-tipping on the Highway for clearance, please call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000. If you have witnessed or have information relating to a fly-tipping offence, please either contact your Parish or Town Clerk or call Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

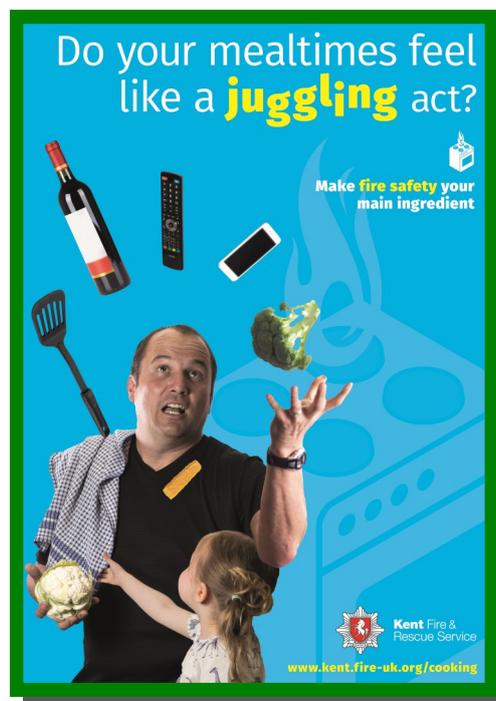


Do your mealtimes feel like a juggling act?

Mealtimes can be a busy time for families, and, often, residents find themselves trying to juggle many other tasks while trying to cook for everyone. Whether it's trying to get the kids organised or catching up with household chores, it is tempting to try to fit in other pressing jobs while waiting for food to cook.

There are many distractions that can cause you to take your eye off your cooking: the phone ringing, a text message or even a knock at the door. Or maybe taking a few moments to catch the end of a favourite TV programme or to check social media newsfeeds or helping with homework... whatever the activity, you can be sure that it is preventing you from concentrating fully on your cooking.

In a hectic home, it's easy to get diverted for longer than you intended, and even forget all about your cooking. For most of the time, the worst that may happen is that you burn the dinner, causing a bit of an inconvenience. But sadly, as Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) knows only too well, unattended cooking can lead to a serious fire that could result in severe damage to your home and may put you, and your family, at risk.



By taking a few moments to work out what is coming between you and a fire-safe mealtime, you can avoid a fire of this type happening in your home. Make fire safety your main ingredient and help prevent a kitchen fire in your home by following these tips:

- Keep an eye on your cooking and remember to switch off your cooker if you have to leave the room;
- Use a timer for items placed in your oven or grill to remind you when your food is ready and to save it from burning;
- Plan and prepare - if you know you have a busy week ahead, try and plan in advance and prepare meals that do not require lots of cooking;
- Avoid storing or placing household items on your cooker or stove;
- Keep your cooker, grill and oven clean to avoid a build up of grease and fat that could start a fire;
- Keep children and pets well away from the cooking area;
- Ensure electric cookers, toasters and microwaves are turned off at the mains when you have finished using them;
- Fit a working smoke alarm on each floor of your home and test it weekly to ensure it provides early warning in the event of a fire.

For further fire safety advice, visit www.kent.fire-uk.org/cooking or call 0800 923 7000.

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/publicsafety | Follow us on twitter @SDC_CSP

For extra copies of this newsletter, copies in large print or different language please call 01732 227000 and ask for a member of the Community Safety Team.