



PRESS RELEASE

Darien-Woodridge Fire District

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August 16, 2007

For Immediate Release

Woman Burned from Fire in House

On August 14, 2007, at 9:52 AM, a fire was reported in a home at 3276 Beller Drive, in Darien. Fire units arrived in just over 4 minutes from the initial call. Upon their arrival firefighters found the fire was out, but they were met inside by a 47-year-old woman that had been burned.

An investigation revealed that a pot used for cooking had caught fire. In an attempt to take the burning pot outside oil splashed over the floors, ignited curtains near the door, and burned the woman.

Paramedics transported the woman to Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, with 40 per cent burns to her upper body. She was later transferred to Loyola Hospital's burn unit.

The damage to the home was minimal, approximately \$1,000. The other three occupants home at the time were not injured. Six vehicles responded to the incident, and fire companies stayed on the scene for two hours to investigate and remove smoke from the home.

The Darien-Woodridge Fire District would like to stress the dangers of cooking, which is the leading cause of home fires according to the National Fire Protection Association. Some safety tips when cooking are:

- Always take out a cover for the pot that you are using to cook in.
- Never pick up a pot that is on fire. Put a lid on it.
- Have a multi-purpose fire extinguisher handy.
- Never leave cooking unattended. Remember you are cooking by setting a timer to go off when the food is done, or carry a hot pad or towel until the food is done.
- Pot handles should not extend over the stove.
- Do not keep combustibles near the stove.
- Avoid wearing long, loose fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Closely supervise children that are in the kitchen. It only takes a second to get burned.
- Do not cook if you have been drinking.
- Be careful of the steam from items in the microwave.

If you would like assistance with choosing or locating fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, or for any other safety related issues, contact your local fire department.
