

Microwave Safety



Microwave ovens are frequently the source of fire related events. Fortunately, most events that occur are nothing more than extreme smoke creating events that initiate fire alarm systems and disrupt building activities. The mandatory evacuation caused by alarm activation can place individuals at risk of injury, and the smoke and odor from over-cooking or burning food can be a nuisance.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso has experienced several microwave cooking incidents that have caused building evacuations resulting in disruption of departmental activities, clinical services, and educational classes. Most of these events occurred due to the lack of attention by individuals using microwave ovens.



Cooking Tips:

- **NEVER LEAVE A MICROWAVE UNATTENDED WHEN IN USE.**
- Read directions for estimated cooking time for any item to be cooked.
- Make sure that any item placed in the microwave is suitable for microwave use.
- Never plug a microwave into an extension cord; this could cause an overloaded wiring situation that could start a fire.
- If smoke or fire is noticed within a microwave immediately unplug the microwave. **Do not open the door.** This could accelerate the situation.

Microwave ovens are popular, time-saving devices that are a part of our business and personal lives; however, when they are not properly used or attended, can cause disruption, damage, and injury.

Thank you for your cooperation in reviewing these tips and practicing proper microwave safety. Questions or comments may be directed to:

**TTUHSC El Paso Fire Marshal's Office
215-4825**