



R B F & R S

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TAKE CARE IN THE KITCHEN THIS EID AL-ADHA

Firefighters from Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) are urging people to take extra care in the kitchen when celebrating Eid Al-Adha this year (Saturday 28 November).

Eid Al-Adha is a Muslim festival, which marks the end of the traditional Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. The festival involves an increase in entertaining and cooking, often using hot oil, which can increase the risk of having an accidental fire in the home.

Firefighters from Red Watch at Wokingham Road fire station and Community Safety staff will be delivering special Eid fire safety posters and cards to local businesses in Reading this week. Business owners will be asked to display them to warn their customers not to leave cooking unattended while they are celebrating.

People can also follow these simple tips to keep themselves and their families safe this Eid:

- Don't let yourself get distracted – **never** leave cooking unattended.
- Take care when wearing loose clothing (such as salwar kameez), as it can easily catch fire.
- Make sure food is dry before putting it in hot oil so it doesn't splash.
- If the oil starts to smoke, it's too hot. Turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- If a hot oil pan catches fire, don't move it and **never throw water over it**.
- **In the event of a fire, get out, stay out and call 999.**

Selina Sheikh, Community Safety Co-ordinator, said: "We want people to have a safe and happy Eid Al-Adha - don't let a fire ruin your fun. Smoke alarms can act as lifesavers in the event of a fire, giving you and your family precious extra time to escape from your home. Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test the batteries weekly. Making an escape plan in advance and practising it with your family can also save lives in an emergency."

ENDS.