



## NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE SAFETY FOR THE PASSOVER CELEBRATION



Passover is a time of family gatherings with special foods, songs, and customs.  
However, when hot water and candles are used,  
there is an increased risk for fires and fire related injuries.

KEEP YOUR PASSOVER HOLIDAY JOYFUL AND SAFE BY TAKING PRECAUTIONS.

### CANDLE SAFETY CHECK LIST

- Use sturdy candleholders.
- Use candles with flame protective non-combustible shades or globes.
- Keep candles at least 4 feet away from curtains, draperies, decorations, blinds and bedding.
- Place candles out of reach of small children and pets.
- Extinguish candles when they burn within two inches of the holder.

### PREPARING THE KITCHEN

- Do not leave your oven unattended while the oven is on or in the self-cleaning cycle.
- Take precautions when handling hot and boiling water. Use oven mitts or potholders.
- Create a "kid-free safety zone" of at least 3-feet from the front of the stove and away from the *Pesach* kettle /pot.

### PREPARING FOR SEDER

#### While cooking,

- stay in the kitchen, don't leave cooking food unattended.
- wear shorter or tighter fitting sleeves. (Long loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles.)*
- don't become distracted.
- maintain the "kid-free zone" of 3 feet around your stove. Turn pot handles inward facing the wall to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.
- keep the area around the stove clear of towels, papers, pot holders or anything that could burn.
- have a pot lid handy to smother a pan fire. ***Do not attempt to pick up the pot or pan.*** Shut off the heat and cover the fire with a lid.
- DO NOT USE WATER! It will cause splashing and spread the fire.***
- Treat burns immediately with cool running water and seek medical attention.

### FDNY TOP THREE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- 1** INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
- 2** HAVE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN
- 3** CONDUCT A SAFETY INSPECTION



The Festival of Passover is one of those beautiful moments in Jewish life when we sit together as a family. The special traditions that are observed remind us of the richness of our faith that has preserved our people.

We respectfully ask that you read the enclosed FDNY Passover safety guidelines so that you enjoy this celebration in sweetness and safety. We hope that this Passover will bring us the many blessings of life we want and need, and may we see the Redemption for which we pray each day of our lives.

*Joseph Potasnik, Chaplain-FDNY*

## TIPS FOR A SAFE PASSOVER

The weeks just prior to Pesach is a high scald and burn time within the Jewish community. Special burn prevention care needs to be taken at this time.

1. Never allow children near boiling water when cleaning for *Pesach*. Adults need to take extra precautions at this time as well.
2. Be aware that oven cleaners (such as Easy-Off) cause severe burns. Be extremely cautious when using these products.
3. *Bedikat Chametz* (Searching for *Chametz*)
  - a. Keep the candle away from all flammable objects, especially curtains, sofas, tablecloths.
  - b. SUPERVISE CHILDREN CLOSELY AT ALL TIMES!
4. Burning *Chametz*
  - a. Keep an extra close eye on children at this time.
  - b. If possible, set up a buddy system where an older child is placed with a younger child
  - c. Never use any type of accelerant to increase the flame.
  - d. Never put any type of **aerosol can or glass containers** in or near the flame.
5. Preparing for *Seder* in the kitchen - Increased activity and excitement often make people less careful just when they should be most cautious. A "NO ZONE" around both the stove and the *blech* should be created and children forbidden to enter these area.
6. Always turn pot handles inward to keep pots from being pulled down by the child or knocked off by an adult.
7. Candles/*Licht* - Keep *Yom Tov, Shabbes, and Yahrzeit* candles on sideboards, out of the reach of small children. If candles are on the table, keep them in the center where they are less likely to be pulled down by a small child.



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