

## Kitchen fire prevention best practices



Kitchen fires cost millions of dollars each year and can lead to loss of income and possible closure of an establishment. There are approximately 5,600 restaurant fires in the U.S. each year according to the USFA National Fire Incident Reporting System. Grease-laden vapors from your cooking equipment accumulate in the exhaust duct system even if you don't have a deep fryer. Vapors from flattop grills, solid fuel and wok cooking deposit grease inside the hood system. To help prevent a fire in your kitchen, the following best practices are recommended:

- Ensure your kitchen fire suppression system meets the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirement for your type of cooking. In most cases, an underwriters laboratory — UL 300 wet chemical fire suppression system is the standard. Your system should be inspected and tagged by a qualified servicer a minimum of once annually, more often for high-volume or wok cooking operations.

### SCHEDULE OF INSPECTION FOR GREASE BUILDUP

Type or volume of cooking	Inspection frequency
Systems serving solid-fuel-cooking operations	Monthly
Systems serving high-volume cooking operations, such as 24-hour cooking, charbroiling or wok cooking	Quarterly
Systems serving moderate-volume cooking operations	Semiannually
Systems serving low-volume cooking operations, such as churches, day camps, seasonal businesses or senior centers	Annually

- Ensure your exhaust system is inspected for grease buildup by a qualified professional based on NFPA 96 - Chapter 11 requirements.
- Have your exhaust duct cleaned a minimum of two times annually and more often for high-volume and wok cooking. Remove and clean the metal exhaust vents in the exhaust hood weekly.
- Educate your employees on proper use of the kitchen fire suppression system.

*The information contained in this service bulletin was obtained from reliable sources. However, United Fire Group accepts no legal responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information.*

UFG INSURANCE | 118 Second Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401 | ufginsurance.com | 800-332-7977