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NEWSLETTER

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**Our Tech
Of the
Quarter!**



Erik Thompson

Erik has been with UNIFOUR for over 8 years in our fire alarm department.

When he is not spending quality time with his family, he is rooting for his favorite football team the Carolina Panthers or making up some awesome deer jerky!

Erik always goes above and beyond the call of duty!

Thanks Erik for a job well done!!!

Hut! Hut! Hut! Super Bowl Safety!!! Tips!!!

Did you know that Super Bowl Sunday ranked #6 behind Thanksgiving, Christmas and Memorial Day in 2013 as having the largest numbers of estimated reported home fires on a holiday? According to NFPA's 2015 [Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment](#) report, an annual average of 590 home cooking fires occurred on Super Bowl Sunday in 2013. That's a 25% increase over the average number of fires on a typical day!

The [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#) (USDA) tells us that Super Bowl Sunday is also the second biggest day of the year for food consumption! So if you're planning to whip up some tasty snacks for this year's game, make sure you add kitchen fire safety "plays" to your line up.

What's the best way to do that? The [U.S. Fire Administration](#) (USFA) offers a handful of great tips below that are easy to follow:

1. Kitchen Huddle

Prepare your cooking area. Use back burners or turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. Move things that can burn away from the stove. Keep a timer handy and use it when you're roasting or baking.

2. Penalty Flag

Frying poses the greatest risk of fire. Keep an eye on what you fry. Start with a small amount of oil and heat it slowly. If you see smoke or if the grease starts to boil in your pan, turn the burner off. Even a small amount of oil on a hot burner can start a fire.

3. Defense

Stay awake and alert while you're cooking. Stand by your pan. If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off. Keep a large pan lid or baking sheet nearby in case you need to smother a pan fire.

4. Illegal Contact

Prevent burns when you're cooking. Wear short sleeves, or roll them up. Don't lean over the burner. Use potholders and oven mitts to handle hot or steaming cookware.

5. Defensive Linemen

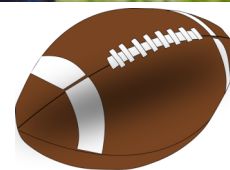
Children need constant adult supervision. If you have young children in the home, keep them three feet from anything that can get hot, including the stove. Put hot objects and liquids beyond a child's reach so they can't touch or pull them down. Never hold a child when you cook.

6. Touchdown!

Keep safety in mind when serving on game day, too. If you burn candles, position them out of reach of children and away from anything that can burn. Consider using flameless candles that are lit by battery power instead. Food warmers and slow cookers get hot. Place them toward the back of the serving table so they won't get knocked off. Provide hot pads to prevent burns. Light the chafing dish fuel can after it is placed under the warmer. Make sure nothing comes in contact with the flame. If young children are in your home, supervise them and keep matches and lighters locked away.

For more fire safety information, visit [USFA's webpage](#). Additional resources can also be found on [NFPA's Cooking Fire Safety web pages](#). Enjoy the game, everyone, and please stay safe!

Article located on www.NFPAToday.org



Technology Affects Fire Alarms

In our ever changing technological world where everyone wants to make things faster, bolder, better, and all-around-more-awesome, phone companies are switching their outdated analog lines to either Voice Over Internet (VOIP) or digital lines. Of course we all want to go to this, but with this change, your Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) must also have the way it communicates changed to keep pace with this technology.

At one time FACP were designed to communicate through the analog phone lines, but when those lines are changed your panel will experience a "Communication" trouble or failure or you may receive a Failure to Test. This leaves your very important Life Safety equipment not operating properly!

Of course there are remedies. One would be to replace your FACP with one that is digital compatible. There is not much selection at this time and these panels carry a higher cost for replacement, not to mention the labor to replace and test. The second route to alleviate this problem would be to install Radio Communicators. Here, the upfront cost could be higher but it eliminates the need for phone lines, and that can be a huge savings depending on how your system is configured. Certainly, and Multi-Family Community with multiple buildings and a panel at each one knows what that phone bill can be like each month! The third choice would be to have your internet provider provide service instead of the phone company.

What we have found so far is that the Radio Communicators are able to provide a lower cost overall and a more timely switch out of these choices. Yes, it does cost a little more for the actual monitoring of a Radio Communicator per year, approximately \$20 per month, but that is easily saved with the loss of the monthly phone bill.

Unifour Fire & Safety is here to assist you as these changes become a reality. Call us to learn more about Radio Communication so you will be ready and to make certain your Life Safety equipment is operating properly. We have had many customers call in when the phone company makes the switch, and are caught off guard when their Fire Alarms begin to experience trouble signals.



FIRE PROTECTION FAQ

DO I NEED A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM IF I HAVE A SPRINKLER SYSTEM?

It is highly recommended. Even though a sprinkler system is extremely effective, it will only activate AFTER a fire event when the heat has reached a certain point. A Fire Alarm system can detect the presence of fire BEFORE full flames and can alert the Fire Department. Time saves lives!

HOW MANY FIRE EXTINGUISHERS DO I NEED?

Generally speaking, there should be an extinguisher every 75 feet for Class "A" and every 50 feet for Class "B". NFPA 10 covers the spacing of extinguishers and there are other factors to be considered. Class "A" = trash, wood, paper, and other materials as the combustible fuel source. Class "B" = flammable or combustible liquids as the fuel source.

HOW LONG WILL A FIRE ALARM SYSTEM LAST?

Most Fire Alarm systems will operate at capacity for approximately 10 years, with very well maintained (inspected and cared for) systems lasting upwards of 20 years. Like most electrical devices, components will wear out while new and better systems are developed and new safety standards are brought to the public.

IF ONE SPRINKLER GOES OFF, DO THEY ALL GO OFF?

Only in the movies. A sprinkler head will only become active if the link or bulb bursts due to heat or force, such as a strike or physical damage. Sprinkler heads are designed to go off individually and only when needed.



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