

Gwinnett County Success Story

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS CREATES SAFER CONDITIONS FOR HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has identified stovetop cooking as the leading cause of household fire and fire-related injuries across North America. They are also the second leading cause of fire-related deaths. It is estimated that cooking is responsible for almost half of all reported household fires in the United States, or more than 470 cooking fires every day. More chilling is that the Consumer Product Safety Commission found that households handled an average of 4.7 million home fires involving cooking equipment per year without having the fire department on scene.



SmartBurner installation now plays an integral role in Gwinnett County's multi-hazard SeniorBSafe CRR initiative.



PARTNERS: Gwinnett County Fire & Emergency Services (GCFES), Gwinnett Christian Terrace, Gwinnett County Senior Services and Friends of Gwinnett Seniors

THE PROBLEM.

Cooking fires are the predominant cause of fire in Gwinnett County, representing more than 52% of all structure fires in one- or two-family dwellings and 48% in other residential occupancies. A fire analysis covering seven years showed that the six-story Gwinnett Christian Terrace was experiencing between two to four reported cooking fires per year. The 125-unit complex houses older adults.

THE VISION.

To protect this high-risk population, GCFES partnered with Friends of Gwinnett Seniors to conduct a pilot project in 2015 to install

SmartBurner in all 125 apartments.

THE RESULT.

A review five years after SmartBurner was installed found there had been no reported stovetop cooking fires at Gwinnett Christian Terrace. The cost of the project was \$25,000 with Friends of Gwinnett Seniors splitting the cost with Gwinnett Christian Terrace. The fire department put the two parties together and brokered the deal after conducting a formal risk assessment, proof that data from a formal risk assessment can help support these types of partnerships.

A few years after SmartBurner was installed,

Friends of Gwinnett Seniors stated that this was the best and most measurable project for creating goodwill that they have ever done.

The success of this project paved the way for the retrofit of SmartBurner in hundreds of additional high-risk seniors' homes in the County.



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NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED.



Act now and help prevent cooking fires before they start!