

# Wilson Housing 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's impact has been huge, driving the incident report rate to zero since equipped in the housing units.**



**PARTNERS:** Wilson Fire & Rescue Services, Wilson Housing Authority, North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs, Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs and Wilson County

### THE PROBLEM.

Upon conducting a detailed analysis of the fire incident data in the community of Wilson, North Carolina, it was evident that there is a concerning surge in the rate of unattended cooking fires.

### THE VISION.

After revealing that Wilson's residential cooking fire problem was higher than the national average, local fire safety advocates partnered with the Housing

Authority and local politicians. Together they achieved passage of an ordinance requiring all electric coil cooking devices in publicly funded housing be equipped with listed "temperature limiting control" technology by the end of 2016.

### THE RESULT.

Since passage in 2011, Pioneering Technology's SmartBurner (formerly Smart Element/Safe-Element), have been installed in Wilson public housing

units. To date there have been no reported stovetop cooking fires in the equipped buildings. In response to this success, the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs passed a resolution supporting available technology for reducing fire loss and injury from stovetop cooking fire incidents. This ordinance can be used as a model for communities looking to implement similar standards.



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1-800-433-6026

NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED.

**Act now and help prevent cooking fires before they start!**

