

BARBEQUE/GRILLING SAFETY TIPS

Make sure to follow these safety tips when grilling:

- Use propane and charcoal grills in outdoor areas only.
- Make sure the grill is located away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a 3-foot “kid-free zone” around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Remove grease or fat build-up from the grills and in trays below the grill so it cannot ignite.
- Never leave the grill unattended.

Safety tips for gas grills:

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. If there is a propane leak, it will release bubbles. If you do find a leak and there is no flame, do the following:
 - Turn off the gas tank and grill.
 - If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
 - If it does not stop, call the fire department.
 - If you smell gas at any point while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane gas tanks in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

Safety tips for charcoal grills:

- If you use a “charcoal chimney” to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.
- If you use starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid and never add charcoal fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid to get the fire going.
- Keep charcoal fluid away from children and heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

For more safety tips, videos, facts and figures, and audio clips, visit www.nfpa.org/grilling.

To watch a video talking about grill safety, visit www.houmatoday.com or www.dailycomet.com and click on “Grill safety.”

Source: National Fire
Protection Association