

STRONGSVILLE FIRE and EMERGENCY

SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Grilling Fire Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries.

Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.



FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

- ❖ There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ❖ If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- ❖ Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- ❖ There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- ❖ When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE GRILLS

- ❖ Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.
- ❖ If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

Stay fire safe this summer! Follow these grilling safety tips.

- 1. Only use your grill outside. Keep it at least 3 feet from siding, deck rails and eaves.
- 2. Keep a 3-foot safe zone around your grill. This will keep kids and pets safe.
- 3. Open your gas grill before lighting.
- 4. Keep an eye on your grill, fire pit or patio torches. Don't walk away from them when they are lit.
- 5. Clean your grill after each use. This will remove grease that can start a fire.
- 6. Place the coals from your grill in a metal can with a lid once they have cooled.

Stay fire safe this summer!
For more information and resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.