

## **GAS GRILLING SAFETY**

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The summer grilling season has arrived along with consumers' love affair with barbecuing. Fire safety is an essential ingredient in any recipe that calls for cooking on an outdoor grill. In 2005, fire departments responded to an estimated 8,300 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues, which is why grill safety is more important than ever:

- Check the gas cylinder hose for leaks before using for the first time each year.
- Be sure to open the grill lid prior to lighting the gas grill.
- If you suspect a gas leak, have the grill serviced by a professional before using.
- Gas and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area: declare a three-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill to avoid potential flare-ups.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately back away from the grill and contact the local fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturers' instructions on usages, assembly and safety procedures.
- Never store propane gas cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Be sure to turn off the fuel supply and the burner when cooking is complete.

*Source: National Fire Protection Agency*