

Grilling Safety Success

The summer is here. We all look forward to family picnics. Avoid turning your picnic into a tragedy by making all the necessary safety checks.

Grills are a very important part of any picnic. You shouldn't encounter any problems when using your grill properly. Here is a list of safety tips to help you do so:

Propane Grills

1. Follow manufacturers' instructions closely.
2. Check grill for rust damage to the housing and the burner.
3. All connections should be tested for leaks. A soapy water solution will cause tiny bubbles if there are any. This should be done when the tank is first connected and periodically thereafter.
4. Make sure the grill is on stable ground before use.
5. Position the grill away from your house or any other structure when in use.
6. Propane grills are not to be used where they may block an exit.
7. Spare propane cylinders (or grills with attached cylinders) shall NOT BE STORED INDOORS. THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE FIRE CODE.
8. Grills shall not be used on any deck that doesn't have an outside stair going to the ground. If the stair is a required exit, then it shouldn't be used at all.
9. Grills not in use should be stored in a shaded area to protect the tank from exposure to the sun.
10. Never let children use gas fired barbecue grills.
11. Never use gas grills inside a building.
12. Cylinders must always be supported in an upright position. During transportation, use of a milk crate and a seat belt is suggested.
13. If a fire or leak occurs, leave the area and contact the fire department immediately!

Charcoal Grills

1. Make sure that the metal base isn't rusted out.
2. Don't use a charcoal grill on a wood porch or deck.
3. Use ONLY lighter fluid to start the grill. NEVER USE GASOLINE!
4. Don't add lighter fluid to a flaming fire.
5. Never let children use charcoal grills alone.
6. Soak the coals in water before discarding.

If you have any questions about grill safety, please contact your local Fire Marshal.