

Grill Safety

Each year fire departments across the country respond to fires involving grills and outdoor cooking equipment. Taking a few minutes to inspect, clean and properly operate your grill will reduce the chances of a life changing accident. Everyone enjoys spending time grilling with friends and family; please take the time to ensure a safe experience. Inspect, maintain and clean your equipment to ensure they function properly. Keep children and pets away from equipment during use and until it is cold to the touch. Always close the propane tank valve when not in use to reduce the chance of a leak. Never store propane tanks inside a structure and always operate a safe distance (10' minimum) from your home. In multi-family dwellings (3 or more units) grills of any type are prohibited on balconies, under overhangs or within 10 feet of the structure. Gas cylinders shall not be used within 10 feet of doors or windows and 20 feet from air intake openings of air conditioning or other ventilation system of any structure. If your grill malfunctions and becomes involved in fire, leave the area and call the fire department. Please watch the attached videos from the NFPA on grill safety.



Facts & figures

- In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,400 structure fires and 4,800 outside fires. These 8,200 fires caused an annual average of 15 civilian deaths, 120 civilian injuries and \$75 million in direct property damage.
- More than one-quarter (29%) of the home structure fires involving grills started on a courtyard, terrace or patio, 28% started on an exterior balcony or open porch, and 6% started in the kitchen.
- Flammable or combustible gas or liquid was the item first ignited in half of home outdoor grill fires. In 50% of the home outdoor fires in which grills were involved, 55% of the outside gas grills, and 36% of gas grill structure fires, the fire started when a flammable or combustible gas or liquid caught fire.

Source: NFPA's "Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment," by Marty Ahrens, November 2011.

[Grilling Safety Tips - Part 1](#)

[Grilling Safety Tips - Part 2](#)

Please contact the Covington Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau at 859-431-0462 with any questions.

Have a safe summer!!!!