



Barbecue Safety

Downey Fire Department Monthly Safety Message

Barbecue Season is Here!

- Nothing says summer like grilling for friends and family.
 - Here at the DFD, we encourage you to utilize your barbecues, but we would like you to be safe.
 - Here are some safety tips to keep everyone safe this year.
 - Information obtained from NFPA website.
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Statistics (From NFPA Website)



- July is the peak month for grill fires (18%), including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by June (15%), May (13%) and August (12%)
- In 2014-2018, an average of 19,700 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills. Nearly half (9,500 or 48%) of the injuries were thermal burns, including both burns from fire and from contact with hot objects; 5,200 thermal burns per year were caused by such contact or other non-fire events.
- Children under five accounted for an average of 2,000 or 39%, of the contact-type burns per year. These burns typically occurred when someone, often a child, bumped into, touched or fell on the grill, grill part or hot coals.
- Gas grills were involved in an average of 8,900 home fires per year, including 3,900 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires annually. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills. Ten percent of gas grill structure fires and 22% of outside gas grill fires were caused by leaks or breaks.
- Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,300 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 600 outside fires annually.



Safety Tip 1

Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors



Safety Tip 2

- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
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Safety Tip 3

Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.



Safety Tip 4

- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

Safety Tip 5



Never leave your grill unattended.



Safety Tip 6

Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Safety Tip 7

- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.





Safety Tip 8

Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

Safety Tip 9

- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.



Safety Tip 10

- Check hose on gas grills for leaks regularly. If you smell gas while cooking, turn off the grill, get away from the area, and dial 911.



Reference

- “Grilling Safety Tips - NFPA.” *NFPA*, 2019, https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Grilling_safety_Tips.pdf.

