



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Michael Young, PIO, 623-238-0179

FIREFIGHTERS REMIND RESIDENTS ABOUT DANGERS OF BARBEQUE GRILLS AFTER RECENT FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — On Sunday, May 18, 2014, firefighters were dispatched around 4 p.m. to a townhome at 4900 West Palo Verde Drive for an out of control barbeque grill fire that was extending to the patio of the residence.

When firefighters arrived on scene, they made a quick aggressive attack on the fire and were able to stop it from spreading into the home.

Fire investigators believe the cause was unattended charcoal briquettes.

Damage is estimated at \$2,000.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, from 2007-2011, gas and charcoal grills caused on average of 8,800 home and outside fires, resulting in an annual average of 10 deaths, 140 injuries and a combined direct property loss of \$96 million.

The Glendale Fire Department urges everyone to follow these safety tips when using a barbeque grill:

- Position the grill away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches and away from play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area with a three-foot "safe zone."
- Use long-handled grilling tools for plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping burgers.
- Remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so a hot grill cannot ignite it.
- For charcoal grills, purchase the proper starter fluid and store out of reach of children and away from heat sources.
- For propane grills, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. Have leaking fuel lines repaired before using.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.
- Placing combustibles too close to heat, and leaving cooking unattended, are the two leading causes for charcoal grill home fires.
- Half of all gas grills and charcoal grill home fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch. Wall coverings, exterior trim, and plants are the leading items first ignited in home outdoor charcoal grill fires.

###