



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Glendale Fire Department

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September 20, 2016

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BARBECUE RESPONSIBLE FOR GLENDALE TOWNHOUSE FIRE

Glendale, Ariz. — On Friday, September 16, at approximately 3 p.m., firefighters were dispatched to a townhouse fire, near the 4400 block of West Paltaire Avenue, believed to have been caused by an unattended barbecue grill that was being used too close to a couch on the back patio.

The couch caught fire which then spread to the home.

When firefighters arrived on the scene, the fire had consumed a majority of the patio and had extended to the second floor and roof, allowing it to travel to the adjacent townhouse. Firefighters made an aggressive attack, stopping it from spreading to several other occupancies.

Paramedics treated one adult smoke inhalation patient at the scene but did not transport anyone to the hospital.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, from 2009-2013, gas and charcoal grills caused on average 3,900 structure fires and 5,100 outdoor fires in or on home properties, resulting in a combined direct property loss of \$118 million, a substantial increase from previous years.

The Glendale Fire Department wants everyone to follow these safety tips when barbecuing:

- 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 and 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 of 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.

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