



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GlendaleAZ.com/Fire

Glendale Fire Department

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GLENDALE FIREFIGHTERS REMIND RESIDENTS ABOUT DANGERS OF BARBECUE GRILLS

Glendale, Ariz. — With Memorial Day weekend approaching fast and graduation party dates set in stone, many people will use backyard barbecues.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, in 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills with July being the peak month for grill fires (17%), including structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by May, June, and August.

A failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one-fifth of all grill structure fires (19%).

The Glendale Fire Department has several safety reminders to ensure a safe and memorable experience at any barbecue you attend:

- 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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