



Grilling Safety

There's nothing like outdoor grilling. It's one of the most popular ways to cook food. But, a grill placed too close to anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips and you will be on the way to safe grilling.

SAFETY TIPS

- » Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- » The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- » Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- » Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- » Never leave your grill unattended.
- » Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILLS

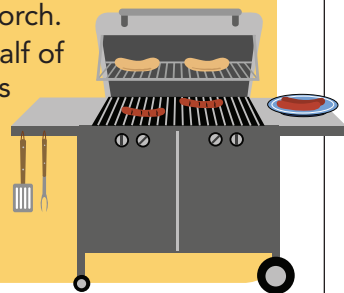
- » There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- » If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- » Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- » There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- » When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

FACTS

- ! July is the peak month for grill fires.
- ! More than half of home grill structure fires begin on either a courtyard terrace or patio, or an exterior balcony or open porch.
- ! Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

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www.nfpa.org/education



Home Fires Involving Grills Fact Sheet

In 2005-2009, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,200 home¹ 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 annual average of 15 civilian deaths, 120 reported civilian injuries, and \$75 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires.
- July was the peak month for grill fires but these incidents occur throughout the year.

Gas vs. Solid-Fueled Grills

Five of every six grills involved in home fires (84%) were fueled by gas while 13% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

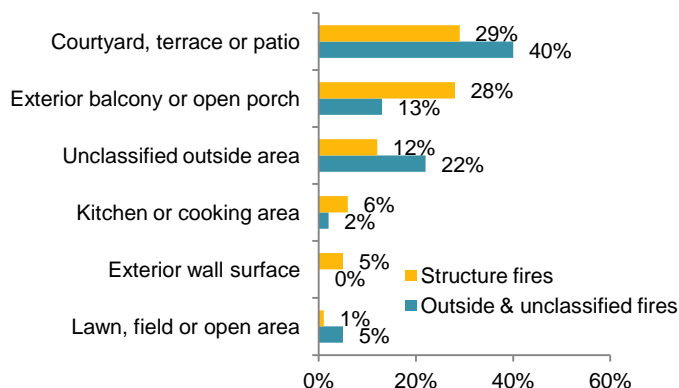
Gas grills were involved in an average of 6,900 home fires per year, including 2,600 structure fires and 4,300 outdoor fires annually.

- Leak or break was the leading factor contributing to gas grill fires.

Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,100 home fires, including 600 structure fires and 400 outside fires.

- The leading cause of these structure fires was something that could burn being too close to the grill.

Home Grill Fires by Leading Areas of Origin 2005-2009



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;
- 6% began in the kitchen; and
- 5% started on an exterior wall surface.

Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2009, 17,700 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.²

Roughly half (9,400) of the injuries were thermal burns.

- Children under five accounted for almost one-quarter (22%) of the thermal grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than flame burns.
- Roughly one-third of the gas grill injuries were burns incurred while lighting the grill.
- Gasoline or lighter fluid was a factor in roughly one-quarter of the charcoal or wood burning grill burns.

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

²Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in August 2009.