

Woodbridge Fire Prevention

Barbecue Grill Safety

Whether you use charcoal, wood, gas or electricity for grilling, a moments inattention can spell disaster.

Here are some safety tips to consider:

- ◆ Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.
- ◆ Enforce a “kid-free zone” of at least 36 inches around the grill.
- ◆ Never store propane cylinders in your home or garage. This can be very dangerous to your family and firefighters if a leak develops or the tank becomes involved in a fire.
- ◆ Keep your barbecue clean and free of greasy buildup, this will prevent the possibility of a fire getting out of control in your grill.
- ◆ Use proper utensils that will keep you a safe distance from the grill when cooking.
- ◆ Keep a fire extinguisher accessible.

Gas Grill Safety

Each year about 30 people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions. Most of these fires and explosions occur when a grill has not been used for some time or when a tank has just been reattached.

- ◆ Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hoses or tubing.
- ◆ Check the tube that leads into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders or food grease.

Charcoal Grill Safety

- ◆ Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited. The fire may return into the fluid container and explode.
- ◆ Only use charcoal starter fluid. Never use gasoline or any other flammable or combustible liquid
- ◆ Allow coals to cool for 48 hours before disposing or cover with water.

If Your Grill Catches On Fire

- ◆ If the fire is in the grill portion and seems "out of control" simply turn off the burners. The grill may need to be cleaned.
- ◆ If the fire involves one of the hoses, and you can safely reach the propane tank valve, shut the tank valve off.
- ◆ If the fire involves the tank, leave it alone, evacuate the area and call the fire department (9-1-1)
- ◆ If there is any type of fire that threatens personal safety or endangers property, call the fire department (9-1-1)