

## **HAPPY SPRING FROM THE PENN WYNNE FIRE COMPANY**

It looks like the cold weather is finally over and we are well on our way to some beautiful days...and nights. With the great weather come all of the outdoor activities we've come to associate with spring and summer. Of course, one of these activities is barbequing.

According to the NFPA, gas and charcoal grills caused an average of 1,000 structure fires and 3,400 outdoor fires in or on home properties during the year. Setting your house or yard on fire is a sure way to ruin an otherwise nice day. To make sure your next barbecue doesn't go up in flames, the Home Safety Council, NFPA and other safety organizations recommend the following safety tips:

Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone" keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.

Before using, position your grill at least 3 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.

Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.

Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking. If there is a leak, you will see bubbles appear. DO NOT, under any circumstances, ignite the grill. Buy a new hose before using the grill again.

If you determine 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 attempt to move the grill.

Use only equipment bearing the mark of an independent testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturers' instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.

Never store gas cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

As silly as this sounds, never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.

Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

When ready to barbecue, protect yourself by wearing a heavy apron and an oven mitt that fits high up over your forearm.

Barbecue grills should be kept on a level surface.

For charcoal grills, only use starter fluids designed for those grills. Never use gasoline and use a limited amount of starter fluid. If the fire is too slow, rekindle with dry kindling and add more charcoal if necessary. Never add more liquid fuel or you could end up with a flash fire.

Be sure to soak the coals with water before you put them in the trash.

Always remember that grills remain hot long after you are through barbecuing.

We are your *volunteer* fire company and we are here to serve you! If you follow these safe grilling practices, we'll be able to enjoy our own barbeques!

If you have to call us please do but remember, most of us take our steaks medium.

Have a great spring!

**Mailing Address**

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Feel free to stop by for a visit!