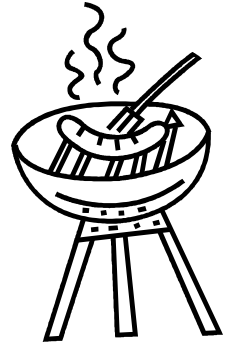


Smart Grilling Keeps Summer Safe



For many of us, the smell of burgers, hot dogs, seafood and steaks sizzling on the grill signals the true start to summer. Before you fire up the barbecue, take a moment to review the basics for safe cooking all summer long:

- While the grill is cool, check for leaks by using a spray bottle to spray all the connections with a solution of soapy water. Watch for any bubbling, which indicates that the connection needs to be tightened.
- Place the grill well away from your house, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- If you use fluid to start a charcoal grill, use only fluid intended for that purpose and store it sealed and away from heat sources. Never use gasoline on a grill.
- Establish a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill, off limits to children and pets.
- Keep the grill lighter, along with other ignition materials such as matches, well out of sight and reach of children. Make sure that the child safety guard is in the stop position.
- Never use a propane or charcoal grill inside. In addition to the danger of igniting surfaces that can burn, carbon monoxide can collect in enclosed spaces -- including tents and garages even with the door open.

Additional tips and fact sheets are available from:

National Fire Protection Association:

<http://www.nfpa.org/Research/NFPAFactSheets/Grilling/grilling.asp>

Consumer Product Safety Commission:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/467.html>

London Fire Brigade:

http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/fire_safety/outside_your_home/barbecues.asp