

**International Falls Fire Department
600 4th Street
International Falls, MN 56649**

BARBECUE SAFETY

Everyone loves an outdoor barbecue. Each year, people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions. Many of these occur when people first use a grill that has been left idle for a period of time, or just after refilling and reattaching the grill's gas container. The Consumer Products Safety Commission suggests the following safety precautions.

GAS GRILLS

- Check the venturi tube that lead to the burners for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food drippings. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear the blockage back to the burner.
- Check the grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.
- Check for gas leaks, following the manufactures instructions, if you smell gas, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill.
- Never use a grill indoors. Use the grill at least 15 feet away from your house or any building. Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or under a surface that can ignite.
- Do not attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See a liquid petroleum gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.
- Always follow the manufacturer instructions that accompany the grill.

LPG CONTAINERS

- People should use caution when storing LP gas containers. Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Make sure your valves are turned off when not in use.
- To avoid accidents while transporting LP gas containers, consumers should transport the container in a secure, upright position. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE INTERNATIONAL FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AT (218) 283-2929 OR THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION AT WWW.CPSC.GOV, GAS GRILL FACT SHEET #467