

FIRE SAFETY ALERT: Use Caution with Gas and Charcoal Grills

The Hinsdale Fire Department is reminding barbecue enthusiasts to consider safety precautions before lighting the charcoal or firing up the gas grill. Every year, people are killed or injured in fire and explosions caused by the malfunction or careless use of grills. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association reports that gas and charcoal grills cause an average of 1,500 structure fires and 4,800 outdoor fires in or on home properties annually.

If you have a charcoal grill, purchase the proper starter fluid and store the can out of reach of children and away from heat sources. Never add charcoal starter fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited, and never use any flammable or combustible liquid other than charcoal starter fluid to get the fire going.

If you have a propane grill, check the propane cylinder hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. A light soap and water solution applied to the hose will quickly reveal escaping propane by releasing bubbles. If you have determined there is a leak, turn off the propane tank and grill. Then get the grill and/or tank serviced by a professional.

Here are few additional safety tips to consider when grilling this summer:

- Never use the grill inside. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from any structure that can catch fire.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- While the grill is hot establish a “kid-free zone”, keeping all children away from it until it cools.
- Have easy access to a fire extinguisher.
- Use longer utensils instead of tableware to keep yourself at a safe distance from the flames.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking.
- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions and contact the manufacturer with any questions
- If a fire erupts from a tank or endangers personal safety or property, call 9-1-1 immediately.

For more information, please contact the Hinsdale Fire Department at 121 Symonds Drive or by calling (630) 789-7060.

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VILLAGE OF HINSDALE

FOUNDED IN 1873

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