

## **Grilling Precautions**

### **By Basil Housewright**

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), three out of five households include an outdoor grill, smoker, or BBQ. The NFPA also indicates every year, U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 9,000 home fires that involve grills or barbecues. Per NFPA reports in 2012, more than 16,000 people were treated by emergency rooms for grill-related injuries.

Whether you are preparing for a summer cookout or need a quick fix for storm season power outages, it is likely your favorite grill master has the answer! Never forget, safety should be every griller's #1 priority!

Here are some safety tips your family's grill master should keep in mind.

- Maintain and clean your grill routinely, and for gas grills, check regularly for leaks.
- Only use grills outside and away from buildings and deck rails.
- Never, ever leave a lit grill unattended.
- Enforce a three-foot safe zone rule around the grill to help keep children and pets safe.
- Plan ahead for putting out flames: have on hand a fire extinguisher, sand, baking soda, or garden hose.
- Use common sense: never move a lit or hot grill, and to avoid burns, use only long-handled utensils.

Stay safe and happy grilling!

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