

It's that time of the year to get your BBQ out of the shed and enjoy those beautiful days while grilling up some tasty food. While BBQing with friends and family can be the perfect way to spend a summer day, it can also be dangerous. On average BBQs cause 4,500 structure fires and 5,700 outdoor fires each year. There are also an average of 19,000 ER visits from injuries caused by grills including 9,300 thermal burns. 70% of American homes own a gas or charcoal grill, so to help everyone grill safely, here are some BBQ safety tips.

- Keep the grill outside away from any structures
  - Don't use BBQ in patios or underneath exterior balconies
- Make sure your grill is on a flat surface and stable
- Clean grill from excess grease and fat
  - When using a charcoal grill, let the coals completely cool before disposing them in a metal container
- Check propane grills for any leaks if you smell gas near the grill and it won't light
  - Apply light soapy water to hose from the propane tank and look for any bubbles that indicate a leak
- If the flame goes out, turn off gas and wait 5 minutes before relighting
- Don't leave a grill unattended
- Don't let children and animals play near a grill
- Watch loose clothing around the flame when grilling
- Be prepared to put out a fire if one occurs
  - Have a household extinguisher nearby
  - For grease fires, use baking soda, DO NOT use water.

