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Barbeque Grill Safety:

Barbeque grills must only be used outdoors. The heat created by a grill, and the process of burning any fuel poses both a fire hazard and the risk of carbon monoxide exposure. The following information is designed to encourage safe use of any type of grill:

- Never use a grill indoors, in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, awning, or beneath an overhang or other surface that can catch fire or trap heat and carbon monoxide.
- Place the grill at least 10 feet away from any building, deck railings, eaves and overhead branches.
- Keep the grill a safe distance from sitting areas, recreation spaces, and pathways.
- Keep a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill that only the person using the grill can enter.
- Use long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames.
- Only use a grill the way it was intended. Never convert a gas grill to use with charcoal.
- **Never leave a burning grill unattended**

Gas Grill Safety:

Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane used in gas grills is highly flammable. Hazards increase when a grill that has been left idle for a period of time, and just after refilling and reconnecting the tank. To avoid problems, it is important to check the gas tank hose for leaks, blockages or damage 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 determine your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.

Also check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. A pipe cleaner or wire can be used to clear blockage by pushing them through to the main part of the burner. Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks and make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing. Examine the fittings on the hose and replace any scratched or nicked connectors.

Additional safety considerations:

- Keep gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Grills should be cleaned before and after each use
- Clean grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill.
- Open the barbecue lid before turning on the gas or lighting.
- When you have finished cooking with a gas barbecue, turn off the gas cylinder.
- Never leave a gas grill unattended; turn it off if you have to step away.
- Never use gas cylinders that are past their legal use date.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Use caution when storing liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane containers. Never store gas tanks in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the tank and leave it outside. Always keep containers upright.
- When transporting gas containers, secure them in the vehicle in an upright position.
- Never keep a tank in a hot car or car trunk.

Charcoal Grill Safety Considerations:

- **Remember that a charcoal grill cannot be turned off once lit; it needs to be constantly attended.**
- Use only sufficient charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue to a depth of about 2 inches.
- Store extra charcoal in a metal container with a tight fitting lid to keep it dry: wet charcoal can spontaneously combust, and start a fire.
- If using a fluid to start the charcoal grill, use only starter fluid intended for this purpose. It is extremely dangerous to use any other combustible liquid to start the coals.
- Never apply charcoal lighter/ starter fluid after the charcoal has been lit.
- Store charcoal and starter fluid away from heat sources, and avoid storing large quantities.
- **Make sure charcoal has been completely extinguished before disposing of the ashes and storing the grill;** ashes may reignite 48 to 72 hours after use. Use a non-flammable container such as a metal bucket with a tight fitting cover to store ashes.

Following these safety guidelines is the first step in preventing grill related problems. In the event of a fire or if a gas leak is discovered remember the following:

If you have a grill fire, immediately move a safe distance from the fire and call 911.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.

Do not attempt to move a grill which is on fire or leaking gas.

Additional information on grilling safety can be found at:

NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control:

<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/publications/documents/fire-prevention/bbq.pdf>

National Fire Protection Association:

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/grilling>

Consumer Product Safety Commission:

<https://www.cpsc.gov//PageFiles/122359/467.pdf>

OPWDD Office of Facility Management, Fire Safety and Emergency Services

44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229-0001,

TEL: 518-486-9647 FAX: 518-473-4327

Safety.Security@opwdd.ny.gov