

Did you know?

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Most often these fires occur when cooking food is left unattended. The Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office wants to remind residents to be responsible while cooking and follow the appropriate safety guidelines.

Loudoun County
Fire Marshal's Office

Cooking and Grill Safety



Fire Marshal's Office

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Cooking and Grill Safety Tips

- Stay Alert! Do not cook while you are sleepy, intoxicated, or taking medication that makes you drowsy.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are grilling, frying, or broiling. If you need to leave, turn off the stove.
- Stay in the home if you are baking, simmering, broiling, or roasting and check your food regularly. Set a timer as a reminder that something is cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop including oven mitts, towels, wooden utensils, food packaging, etc.
- Have a three foot "kid free" zone around the stovetop, grill, or other hot surfaces while cooking.
- Wear short, tight sleeves or roll up longer sleeves to avoid catching them on fire.
- Keep stovetop, oven, and burners clean.



- Have the properly rated fire extinguisher readily available in case of a fire.

If you have a fire:

- Get out of the house and close the door behind you.
- Call 911 or your local emergency number.
- If you try to fight the fire, be sure to alert others so they can begin to exit the home.
- Keep a lid nearby while cooking to smother a grease fire. Cover the pan and turn off the burner. Leave the pan until it is completely cooled.
- If there is a fire in the oven, keep the door closed and turn off the heat.

Grill Safety

Before starting:

- Follow the grill manufacturer's instructions and keep written materials accessible.
- Keep the top open while lighting the grill until you are certain it is lit.
- Never put lighter fluid or gasoline on a grill.
- Keep children from tampering with the grill or cylinder.
- If your flame goes out, wait 5 minutes before attempting to relight the grill.



- Trust your nose, if you smell propane then do not try to restart your grill.
- Use a thick soapy water solution to check connections for tightness before connecting or lighting a propane gas grill burner. A leak should cause the soapy solution to bubble. Never use matches or a lighter to search for leaks.
- Never store a spare gas cylinder under or near a barbecue grill. Heat can build up inside the cylinder causing the pressure release valve to release propane. Flash fires or explosions can result.

After using:

- Turn off burner controls and cylinder valves.
- When the grill is not in use, cover disconnected hose-end fittings with plastic bags or protective caps to keep clean.
- Never store propane cylinders indoors or in enclosed areas, e.g. basement, shed, tent, etc.
- Always store cylinders outdoors in upright position.
- Do not smoke while handling cylinders.

