

Family Safety and Legal Tips

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Guide to Safe Outdoor Cooking



Protect Your Family from Fire-Related Injuries This Summer!

Barbecues and campfires are fun ways to enjoy the Great Outdoors. But with the fun comes increased risk of injury. To make sure that your cookouts and campfires are safe for all, always remember to follow the safe practices listed below.

Help avoid preventable injuries at your next barbecue or campfire by following these important safety tips:

Barbecue Safety Tips

- ✓ Be sure that your grill or smoker is located on a flat, non-flammable surface like a stone patio or driveway, at least ten feet away from your house, your garage and any trees.
- ✓ When using a gas grill, check that the lines between the propane tank and the grill are free of any obstructions.
- ✓ Never grill in enclosed areas—that could result in carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ✓ Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbecue.
- ✓ Have a working fire extinguisher, a garden hose attached to a water supply, or at least 16 quarts of water nearby in case of a fire.
- ✓ With charcoal grills, be sure to follow package directions for starter fluid. NEVER pour starter fluid on a burning fire. The flame can flashback up into the container and explode. Dispose of hot coals properly—douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place used coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- ✓ Keep children away from fires and grills. Parents should create a “safety zone” around the grill and



instruct kids not to cross it. If your grill is on a hard surface like a patio or driveway, you can use chalk to draw the safety zone around the grill.

Campfire Safety Tips

- ✓ Always follow the park’s rules for the use and extinguishing of campfires.
- ✓ Build campfires where they will not spread, away from dry grass and leaves.
- ✓ Keep campfires small and don’t let them get out of hand.
- ✓ Keep plenty of water and a shovel nearby to douse the fire when you are done. Stir it and douse it again with water.
- ✓ Never leave campfires unattended.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration



Remember to “Stop, Drop & Roll”

If your hair or clothing catches fire, it is important to know not to run or try to pat the fire out with your hands. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, you should:

1. Stop immediately, drop to the ground, and cover face with hands.
2. Roll over and over or back and forth to put out the fire.
3. Immediately cool the burn with cool water for 3 to 5 minutes and then seek emergency medical care.

Be sure to teach kids to “Stop, Drop and Roll” and practice it often so that it will become an automatic response in an emergency situation.

These are just a few things you can do to protect your family from barbecue-related injuries. Please visit Montlick.com or HelpKeepKidsSafe.org and click on “**Family Safety and Legal Tips**,” to see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials, and to register for Free Safety Alerts.