



BARBECUE GRILLS

FIRE CODE AIMS TO REDUCE FIRES FROM BARBECUE GRILLS.

CODE INFORMATION SHEET

2012

Everyone loves a barbecue, Gas and charcoal BBQ cooking grills have become an essential part of our lifestyle. Unfortunately, cooking on gas and charcoal grills can also be dangerous. The use and storage of solid fuel or propane cooking equipment on patios and balconies has resulted in a number of major fires in the state of Vermont.



As with other types of cooking devices, the leading causes of structure fires involving charcoal-fueled grills are unattended cooking and placing combustibles too close to heat. In structure fires, the first items ignited are most commonly the exterior trim and wall coverings. The leading cause of gas-grill fires is attributed to failure of the equipment or breaks in the gas lines of the equipment.

Before firing up the grill, there are several safety precautions and fire code requirements to keep in mind. By following these guidelines, you'll help prevent possible gas explosions or fires.

Here are a few tips that can help make barbecuing safer.

- Charcoal briquettes should be stored in a dry area because damp or wet charcoal is sensitive to spontaneous heating.
- The use and storage of barbecue grills should be restricted to the out-of-doors. Never use barbecue grills for home heating or indoor cooking.
- Charcoal briquettes should be allowed to cool naturally a safe distance from structures and combustible materials and then properly disposed of.
- Charcoal lighter fluid should be properly stored, away from living areas of the home.

- Propane cylinders should be stored outside at least 10 feet from building openings such as windows and doors.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Never bring the propane tank into the house.

- Charcoal and gas grills are sources of Carbon Monoxide. CO fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you in an enclosed space.
- Use only LP containers equipped with an Overfill Protection Device.
- When finished using your propane barbecue always make sure that you not only turn off the barbecue but shut off the propane cylinder too
- Allow coals to cool for 48 hours before disposing. If you are not able to wait, douse coals with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place coals in plastic, paper or wooden containers.



Additional Information on Back

The fire and building safety code includes regulations concerning grills on and near combustible decks and structures.

**Requirements of the
Vermont Fire and Building Safety Code**

For other than one- and two-family dwellings, no hibachi, gas-fired grill, charcoal grill, or other similar devices used for cooking, heating, or any other purpose, shall be used or kindled on any balcony or under any overhanging portion or within **10 ft** (3 m) of any structure. Listed electric ranges, grills, or similar electrical apparatus shall be permitted.

[NFPA 1 : Sec10.11.6.1]

Open fires and cooking fires shall be constantly attended by a competent person until such fire is extinguished. This person shall have a garden hose connected to the water supply or other fire-extinguishing equipment readily available for use.

[NFPA 1 : Sec10.11.5]