



Lakewood Fire District No. 1

316 River Avenue
Lakewood, NJ 08701

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Barbecue Safety

Contact: Vincent J. Vitiello, Administrator 732-364-5151

BARBECUE SAFETY

Of the many pleasures associated with the spring and summer seasons, one of the most popular is the outdoor barbecue. They are fun to use and they provide delicious tasting food. However, they can be dangerous if not handled properly. Unfortunately, numerous fires and injuries occur every year due to the use of barbecue grills. Most importantly, the majority of these fires and injuries are preventable. Therefore, the Lakewood Board of Fire Commissioners in conjunction with Fire Chief Mike D'Elia Jr., Fire Prevention Coordinator Jacob Woolf, and the members of the Lakewood Fire Department provide the following information to make your barbecuing experiences pleasurable and safe.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Fired Barbecue Grills

1. The LPG cylinder should always be transported in an upright position and on the floor of a vehicle with all windows open. Remove the cylinder from the vehicle as soon as possible and never transport or store a LPG cylinder in the trunk of a vehicle.
2. Never leave a LPG cylinder in a parked vehicle.
3. Store LPG cylinders, including those attached to barbecues, outdoors and in a shaded cool area out of direct sunlight. Never store a LPG cylinder inside a home.
4. Fittings on LPG cylinders may have left-handed threads, which require movement in a counterclockwise direction to tighten. Therefore, care must be exercised when removing and re-attaching the flexible supply hose.
5. A soapy solution applied to connections can be used to detect leaks, as they will produce bubbles.
6. When the barbecue is not being used, the valve on the LPG cylinder should be kept in the off position.
7. Avoid grease dripping on the flexible supply hose as well as on the cylinder.

Charcoal Barbecue Grills

1. Use only starter fluid designed for charcoal barbecue grills. Once a fire has been started, never add fluid. Never use gasoline.
2. Use extreme caution in disposing ashes. Wet ashes thoroughly with water before emptying the barbecue.
3. Store charcoals in properly sealed containers.

The following pertains to all barbecue grills – LPG, Charcoal as well as Natural Gas fired

1. Read the manufacturer's instructions and make sure you understand them.
2. Keep barbecue grills away from anything that can burn such as your house, car, dry vegetation, etc.
3. Do not leave barbecue grills unattended and keep children as well as pets away.
4. Barbecue grills should only be used outdoors and not on porches, balconies, under overhangs or in garages.
5. When lighting a barbecue grill the cover should be in the open position.
6. Avoid wearing loose fitting clothing while barbecuing.
7. Review, the principles of "STOP, DROP and ROLL" which are simple: STOP – do not run if your clothes catch on fire. DROP – to the ground and cover your face. ROLL – continue to roll to smother the fire.

Other simple precautions that can keep you and your family safe from injuries that commonly occur during the Spring and Summer seasons are as follows

1. When using lawnmowers, wait for the engine to cool before refueling. Never refuel while the engine is running.
2. Store gasoline outside the home, in approved safety cans, out of the reach of children and away from open flames.
3. Use caution when using a garden hose that has been exposed to the sun. Standing water can become extremely hot and cause serious burns. Let water run and pre-test the temperature.
4. Set time limits for sunbathing. Use sunscreen and do not wait for skin to turn red before applying protective lotion.
5. When the interior of a vehicle is hot, check the metal parts of seat belts as well as plastic or leather seats before placing children in them.
6. Every summer, heartbreaking and preventable deaths happen when children are left alone in hot cars. These cases happen when children are left unattended in a hot car – sometimes because the driver forgot the child was there. Use a visual cue, such as a diaper bag, placed on the seat next to you as a reminder that the child is in the back seat.

- **Additional Fire Safety Information for parents, children and educators can be found by visiting the Fire District Website at lakewoodfd.org and clicking on Sparky's Firehouse or New Jersey Fire Safety under the Links heading.**