

Information Bulletin

Barbeque & Grill Safety



Barbeques & Grills

The Phoenix Fire Code prohibits the use of charcoal burners, propane and other open-flame cooking devices on fire escapes or balconies, patios, covered walkways or roof overhangs or within 10 feet of combustible construction unless protected by an automatic sprinkler system, except in one- and two-family dwellings.

LP-Gas burners are not permitted to be operated within 10 feet of openings like sliding glass doors or windows, and are required to be located at least 20 feet away from air intakes of air conditioning and ventilations systems. The Fire Code does not require a permit for a barbeque or grill using wood, charcoal or LP-Gas.

In hotels, motels, boarding houses and apartments, multi-family housing units, condos, dormitories, vacation time shares, boarding houses no person is permitted to use fixed or portable charcoal or LP-Gas barbeques or store LP-Gas on, in, or under any attached covered patios, balconies, covered walkways, or roof overhangs.

Always follow ALL of the manufactures instructions and keep written materials and manuals in a safe, accessible place.

On average, each year 600 fire/explosions occur nationally from the improper use of or malfunction of gas grills resulting in injuries to people and damage to property. Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LP-Gas, Propane) is highly flammable and care should be taken during use.

On average, 19 people are killed nation wide as a result of Carbon Monoxide (CO) fumes

from charcoal being burned inside structures. Charcoal briquettes, lump charcoal, and hardwood charcoal produce CO when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in enclosed environments like a house, apartment, or condominiums.

General Safety Tips

A few simple safety precautions will help ensure that outdoor cooking remains trouble-free and enjoyable.

- Be aware of the wind blowing sparks. Do not allow debris or dry brush to ignite.
- Place grill on a level surface away from low hanging trees, deck railings, siding or any combustible materials.
- A fire extinguisher or a garden hose should be placed within reach of the person operating the grill.
- Use long handled barbecue tools and flame retardant mitts.
- Do not wear loose clothing and watch for dangling apron strings and shirt tails.
- Grills should always be used by competent persons. NEVER leave children or pets unattended near a hot grill.

Gas Grill Safety

Gas grills are safe and convenient appliances when assembled and used properly. Gas grills bring into play another element, Liquid Propane (LP). LP gas is pressurized and requires special handling and storage. These few tips will make all of your barbecues safe and enjoyable.

- Before having an LP cylinder filled, check it for dents, gouges or other signs of disrepair.

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- When having a cylinder filled, it is important to make sure that the cylinder is not overfilled.
- Check and make sure all connections are tight BEFORE turning on the gas. Leaks can be detected by dabbing the connections with a solution of soapy water and turning on the gas momentarily. If bubbles occur, there is a leak and it must be fixed before the grill is used.
 - Never store a spare LP cylinder under or near a barbecue, heat source or open flame.
 - Never ignite a gas grill with the lid closed. The propane may accumulate inside, and when ignited, the lid could blow off.
 - Store extra cylinders outdoors in a shaded area, not under stairs.

This information applies to charcoal, wood burning and propane gas grills only. Grills and barbecues connected to plumbed gas requires a permit from the Planning and Development Department for a permanent installation of plumbed fuel. However, commercial roasting operations (chili & corn) roasters, open flames for restaurant use, and certain types of open burning require a Fire permit. Consult Phoenix Fire Code Section 105.6 or call Fire Prevention @ 602-262-6771 for additional information.

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