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THERE'S NOTHING LIKE OUTDOOR GRILLING. IT'S ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR WAYS TO COOK FOOD. BUT, A GRILL PLACED TOO CLOSE TO ANYTHING THAT CAN BURN IS A FIRE HAZARD. THEY CAN BE VERY HOT, CAUSING BURN INJURIES. FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE TIPS AND YOU WILL BE ON THE WAY TO SAFE GRILLING.

Safety Tips:

- ✿ Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- ✿ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ✿ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- ✿ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- ✿ Never leave your grill unattended.

Charcoal Grills:

- ✿ There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- ✿ If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- ✿ Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- ✿ There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- ✿ When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

PROPANE Grills:

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soap bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. **If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.** Do not move the grill.

FACTS

- ! *July is the peak month for grill fires.*
- ! *More than half of home grill structure fires begin on either a courtyard terrace or patio, or an exterior balcony or open porch.*
- ! *Roughly half of the injuries involving grills are thermal burns.*