



# Summer Fire Safety Tips

**Call 911 in case of fire.**

The BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund would like to remind everyone to take extra care in their summer activities to avoid preventable burns and scalds.

## Barbecue - Propane & Natural Gas

- Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose. If there is a propane leak, it will release bubbles. If you do find a leak and there is no flame, do the following:
  1. Turn off the gas tank and grill.
  2. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.
  3. If it does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas at any point while cooking, get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department.
- Use only equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on how to set up the grill and maintain it.
- Never store propane tanks in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.
- Never use a barbecue indoors or in an enclosed area such as a tent; doing so can cause a fire hazard and a build-up of poisonous carbon monoxide gas.
- Prevent cooking grease from dripping onto hoses or propane cylinder. Grease build-up is a fire hazard.
- When finished barbecuing, make sure the barbecue is turned off and the burner flames are out. Turn off the valves or gas supply and close the barbecue lid.

## Barbecue - Grills - Charcoal

- If you use a 'charcoal chimney' to start charcoal for cooking, use a long match to avoid burning your fingers when lighting the paper.
- If you use starter fluid, only use charcoal starter fluid and never add charcoal fluid when coals or kindling have already been ignited.
- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid to get the fire going.
- Keep charcoal fluid away from children and heat sources.

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Each year almost 700 children and adults from around B.C. are admitted to the Burn, Trauma and Plastics Units at Vancouver General Hospital and BC Children's Hospital suffering serious trauma.

The BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund provides life saving, life supporting, and life enriching services to them, and works to save all British Columbians from a similar trauma.

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## **Barbecue - Grills - Charcoal cont.**

- Always use barbecue grills outdoors, a safe distance from play areas and foot traffic.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railing and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Soak coals with water before discarding to prevent their re-ignition. Then dispose of them in a metal container.

## **Campfires**

- Obey all fire laws, ordinances and regulations for your area.
- Never use gasoline to help ignite a campfire.
- Make sure that small children are placed well away from campfires.
- Keep campfires small and never leave them unattended.
- Soak hot coals with water to douse flames. Make sure your campfire is out before you leave.

## **Gasoline**

- Store in safety cans or containers that have been approved for the storage of flammables, store outside the home, away from pilot lights or other sources of ignition.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaner, a charcoal starter or a solvent.
- When refueling any engine, turn it off, allow it to cool and extinguish all smoking materials.
- Always keep gasoline away from children and pets.
- Never use water to put out a gasoline fire.

## **Protect Yourself and Your Family**

- Practice Stop, Drop and Roll. If you catch on fire: Stop where you are. Drop to the ground and cover your face. Roll over and over until the fire is out.
- If you are burned, run cool water over the burn. Never apply butter or salve to burns because they seal in heat and can cause further damage to the skin.
- Call 911 in case of fire.

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