

# Guidelines for Gas Grill Use

Many organizations on campus hold welcome-back cookouts at the beginning of the fall semester, or during homecoming, freshman orientation, or other functions. Few things taste better than a meal prepared on the grill. However, these innocent looking appliances can be hazardous. Know the hazards associated with gas grills before lighting them up. The time it takes to understand what can go wrong is well spent.



## Potential Hazards of Gas Grills

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Liquid petroleum (LP) gas or propane, used in gas grills, is highly flammable. Each year many people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions. Many of these fires and explosions occur when a grill is used after being left idle for a period of time or just after refilling and reattaching the grill's gas container. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, always perform the safety checks outlined below.

## Gas Grill Safety Checks

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- Regularly check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage.
- Check hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move hoses away from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.
- Check for gas leaks if you smell gas or when you reconnect the grill to the LP gas tank. If there is a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill.
- Never use a grill indoors. Keep the grill at least 10 feet away from any building or other combustible material. Do not use the grill in any enclosed space or under a surface that can catch fire.
- Do not attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See a qualified appliance repair person.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions that accompany the grill.

## Storage and Transporting

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Use caution when storing LP gas containers. Always keep containers upright. Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors. When transporting LP gas cylinders, keep the cylinder in a secure, upright position, and never keep a filled container in a hot car or trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, allowing gas to escape through the relief valve.

## Questions?

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If you have any questions regarding the use of gas grills, please call the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at 8-8182.