



Use of Grills and Barbecues

A Factsheet on Outdoor Cooking

According to the National Fire and Protection Association (NFPA) One-third (33%) of the home structure fires involving grills started on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch, 18% started on a courtyard, terrace or patio, and 11% started on an exterior wall surface.

Outdoor grilling and barbecues are a great way to enjoy the outdoors, share good times with family and friends and to make your favorite foods better. However, essential to a good time, is the safe use and operation of these open flame devices. Each year Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services answer numerous 911 calls, reporting fires that are the result of improper use or operation of grills, barbecues and similar devices. Many times these fires end in the destruction of homes and cause significant losses. Gwinnett County Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Prevention and Enforcement wants to make you aware of the Fire Safety Regulations that govern outdoor grilling and barbecues, so you can fully enjoy this outdoor activity safely.

Grills, barbecues and similar devices are not to be used indoors or in a confined area. The process of combustion or burning gives off carbon monoxide, which can reach toxic levels in an enclosed space.

Combustible materials such as leaves, vegetation, paper

products, tablecloths, charcoal bags, lighter fluid containers, etc. should be stored a safe distance away from open-flame devices.

The placement of grills, barbecues and similar devices are required to be placed at ground level on a stable or solid surface and 10 feet or more from combustible building construction or combustible balconies.

NOTE: The use or kindling of open-flame devices on apartment balconies is not permitted and residents are encouraged to use common grilling areas safely located away from residential areas or combustibles.

Grills, barbecues and similar devices must always be attended. Children and pets should be kept away from cooking areas to prevent burns and mishaps.

Start grills, barbecues and similar devices only with charcoal lighter fluid or as recommended by the open-flame device manufacturer. Never add charcoal lighter fluid to any open flame or embers.

Charcoal ashes should be thoroughly wetted and soaked before disposing. Ashes should be

placed in a non-combustible (metal) container for disposal. The noncombustible container should be placed away from combustible construction and on a non-combustible surface or ground.

Storage of fuel materials for grills, barbecues or similar devices (charcoal, liquid-fuel or liquefied petroleum gas (LP gas) should be placed away from heat sources in a well ventilated area.

Liquefied petroleum gas (LP gas) containers should be stored in an area away from the residence at ground level. LP gas containers for grills, barbecues or similar devices are not permitted on apartment balconies or within the apartment residence.

For More Information Contact:

**Gwinnett County Fire and
Emergency Services
408 Hurricane Shoals Rd NE
Lawrenceville, GA 30046
678-518-4850 request line
fireprograms@gwinnettcounty.com**