



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grill Smart: Don't let Holiday Fun Go up in Smoke *Keep the Sizzle in Summer with Grill Safety*

[Hot Tips for Safe Grilling this July 4]

Albany, NY – June 16, 2008 – It's the season for America's favorite pastime: cooking outdoors. For many people, grilling with propane is a wonderful way to cook outdoors, says Rick Browne, host of the PBS show *Barbecue America*. "Propane grills heat up fast so you can get your food on the grill quickly and you are able to manage precise temperatures, providing you the flexibility to prepare a variety of dishes," he says. It's no wonder that 80% of households own a grill, and that sales of gas grills have increased dramatically since 2000. Propane gas grills are still the most popular type for consumers, at 65 percent. Furthermore, it is environmentally friendly. The Environmental Protection Agency recognizes propane as a clean-burning gas that releases 105 times less carbon monoxide than charcoal.

Every year, though, 6,000 gas and solid fuel grill fires occur in this country, most of which are preventable. The New York Propane Gas Association reminds everyone, even the most seasoned outdoor cooks, to beef up on safety first. "Propane is the most common fuel used for outdoor grills, so as the warm weather arrives, we like to remind people about the importance of gas grill safety," says Barbara Roach, executive director of the New York Propane Gas Association. "By following some basic precautions, grill owners can ensure that each cookout is safe and enjoyable," she adds.

Propane is highly flammable. To reduce the risk of fire or explosion, consumers should routinely follow some key tips for the safe operation and maintenance of their grills:

Ventilation

- Always keep the lid open when lighting your grill.
- Keep the grill in a well-ventilated area, at least ten feet away from the house—and at least three feet away from trees and shrubs.
- Be sure to set the grill on a non-flammable surface like concrete or asphalt.
- Never use a grill indoors or in any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.
- Always use and store propane cylinders outdoors in an upright position.
- After filling or exchanging a cylinder, take it home immediately. While transporting the cylinder, keep your vehicle ventilated and the valve closed or capped. Never transport your propane cylinder in the trunk of your vehicle.

Firing Up The Grill Safely

- Never use matches or lighters to check for leaks. Never use starter fluid with propane grills.
- Before connecting the cylinder to your grill for the first time, use a leak detection solution (a 50/50 mixture of water and liquid soap) to check connections for leaks. Keep all flammable materials away from the grill. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off gas and do not attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.

Gas Grill Safety

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- If the grill does not ignite within ten seconds, turn off the gas, keep the lid open and wait five minutes before trying again.
- When refilling the cylinder, always have the supplier check for dents, damage, rust, and leaks.

Firing Up the Grill Safely (continued)

- Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder.
- Trim excess fat and drain off excess marinade or oil from meats, replace greasy lava rock or ceramic briquettes, and keep the grill clean to minimize flare-ups.
- Regularly check the tubes that lead into the burner for blockage from insects or food grease.
- Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage, pushing it through to the main part of the burner.

General Safety Tips

- Designate the grilling area a “No Play Zone,” keeping kids and pets away from the equipment.
- Always have one person in charge of the fire at all times. Never leave a hot grill unattended.
- When your grill is not in use, cover the disconnected hose-end fittings with plastic bags or protective caps to keep them clean.
- Always follow grill manufacturer’s instructions and keep written materials on hand.
- Never attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See a propane gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person. Be sure to locate your model number and the manufacturer’s consumer inquiry phone number and write them on the front page of your manual.

Propane is a safe, clean, versatile and highly efficient fuel that can be used for other outdoor products to help extend the summer season. In recent years, propane has become more than just an energy source for outdoor grills, did you know that it is also the fuel of choice for other consumer friendly products such as pool and patio heaters and mosquito magnets. For more information on the value and uses of propane, visit www.nypropane.com.

About the New York Propane Gas Association (NYPGA)

NYPGA is a trade organization providing services that communicate, educate, and promote the propane industry in New York. The association, formed in 1948, offers training, peer networking opportunities, and assistance with legislative issues that contribute to operating a safe and successful industry.

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For more information, contact:

Barbara Roach

518.383.3823

nypga@localnet.com

Michael Meath

315.463.2325

mmeath@stratcomllc.com