



MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

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Grilling Safety Big Part of Safe July 4th Celebration Says State Fire Marshal

JACKSON- As July, the peak month for grilling fires, and the July 4th holiday near, Mississippi Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges all Mississippians to play it smart and use grilling safety when celebrating.

“You should celebrate the Fourth with family and friends, not the emergency room because you were careless when grilling,” Chaney said.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that gas grills contribute to higher numbers of fires than charcoal grills. It also states that a failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one –fifth of all grill structure fires.

“Before you start grilling take the time to inspect and clean your grill. The most dangerous time around a grill is when you light it,” Chaney said.

To help keep your family safe during this Fourth of July holiday period, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal’s Office, recommends these 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 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 approved 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, 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.

For more fire safety tips visit the grilling section of the Be Prepared page of the Mississippi Insurance Department website at: www.mid.ms.gov. or get tips on Twitter from @msfiresafe and @MSInsuranceDept.