

Spring Safety Tips

Outdoor Cooking Safety

As we approach Memorial Day weekend and the summer months, the State Fire Marshal urges Oregonians to be fire safe when cooking outside. To reduce the chances of an outdoor cooking-related fire or injury the following safety tips are recommended.

- Make sure the barbecue is in a safe area away from children, pets and anything that can burn.
- Store matches and lighters up and away from children.
- Don't be tempted by a rainy day to use outdoor cooking equipment inside – not even in the garage. You may be overcome by carbon monoxide gas, resulting in injury and death.

Extra care is needed for gas grills:

- Check all gas line connections to make certain they are tight and properly secured. Carefully bend the grill's flexible line and check it for cracks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- If you smell a gas odor around a propane tank, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill until the leak is fixed.
- If your propane grill uses a one to ten gallon cylinder, make sure the cylinder has an overfill protection device.
- Always light the match before you turn on the gas.

Charcoal grills:

- Once a fire has been started, never add starter fluid. Fire may follow the stream of fluid back to the container, causing an explosion and scattering flaming liquid.
- Use caution disposing of ashes. Ashes may contain hot embers, which can start a fire if not disposed of properly. Place ashes in a covered metal container and put outdoors away from anything that can burn.