

GREAT GRILLING

Use Care When Firing Up That Barbecue Grill

(NAPSA)—A cool head and some forethought can help keep your grilling experience safe and enjoyable.

Recent statistics show more than 6,000 accidental fires and explosions occur due to the improper use of grills, resulting in 20,000 emergency room visits and \$29 million of estimated damage annually. Safety experts at Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) and the National Safety Council (NSC) encourage consumers to practice safe grilling techniques this season to keep their families and homes out of harm's way.

Outdoor Grilling Safety Tips

- Never use a grill indoors. Use it at least 10 feet away from your house or any building.

- Do not use a grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or under an awning or under any covering that can catch fire.

- Never leave a grill unattended, especially when small children and pets are present.

- Be cautious of overhead obstructions, including tree branches, while grilling.

- Always follow the manufacturers' instructions that accompany the grill.

Gas Grill Safety Tips

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no kinks in the hose or tubing.

- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and



dripping hot grease.

- Check for gas leaks, following the manufacturer's instructions, if you smell gas or when you reconnect the grill to the propane tank. NEVER use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.

- Do not attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. Take it to your local home improvement store, hardware store or a qualified appliance repairperson.

- You should use caution when storing your propane tank. Always keep the containers upright.

Never store a spare tank under or near the grill. Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.

- Be sure your propane tank has an over-fill prevention device. As of April 2002, all tanks sold or refilled are required to have the device to protect against propane leaks that may cause fire or explosions.

- You should use extreme caution and always follow the manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting a propane tank to your grill.

Charcoal Grill Safety Tips

- Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire. Both can cause an explosion.

- Never attempt to restart the flame by adding additional lighting fluid to an already lit grill.

- Keep a spray bottle of water nearby to handle flare-ups while grilling.

- Be sure to place your grill on a flat, level surface so it won't tip over.

- Wait until the coals have completely cooled (may take a few hours) before disposing of them.

- Remember, coals get HOT—up to 1000 degrees F. Use insulated, flame-retardant mitts when cooking or handling any part of the grill. Also use long-handled barbecue tongs and utensils for safe handling of food and coals.

For more safety tips, visit www.ul.com.