



## GRILLING, FIREWORKS, AND FIRE SAFETY



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's  
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Did you know that there are more fires reported on Independence Day than any other day in the U.S?<sup>1</sup> Fireworks and grilling can be dangerous so it's important to take precautions to prevent unwanted fires. June and July are peak grilling months, and every year gas grills cause about 7,200 house fires, while charcoal and other solid-fueled grills cause about 1,400 fires.<sup>2</sup> More than a half of the fires involving grills start on an outdoor deck, patio, or porch.<sup>2</sup>

Fireworks can also cause serious property damage and injury. In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires<sup>1</sup> which led to millions of dollars of property damage. Young people ages 15 to 24 are most at risk for fireworks injuries, which is why the safest way to enjoy them is to attend a public display by trained professionals.<sup>4</sup>

### Prevention Tips

Be safe while grilling or enjoying fireworks this summer by taking these safety precautions:

- ▶ Propane and charcoal barbeque grills should only be used outdoors. Keep the grill away from the house, deck railings, and overhanging eaves or branches to avoid catching fire.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Never leave your grill unattended. Keep children and pets away from the grilling area.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ If you use a propane grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ If you use a charcoal grill, only use charcoal starter fluid. Don't add starter fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire once the grill has been lit.<sup>3</sup>
- ▶ Light fireworks outside in a clear area, away from houses and other buildings.<sup>5</sup>
- ▶ Don't let your kids pick up fireworks that have already been lit or may be left over because the firework might still be active.<sup>4</sup>
- ▶ Keep a bucket of water nearby to soak fireworks that don't go off.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fireworks. National Fire Protection Association. <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=297>. Updated June 2012. Accessed March 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Grilling. National Fire Protection Association. <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=298>. Updated January 2013. Accessed March 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Grilling Safety Tips. National Fire Protection Association. <http://www.nfpa.org/itemDetail.asp?categoryID=1714&itemID=41221>. Updated June 2012. Accessed March 2015.

<sup>4</sup> Fireworks Safety Tips. National Fire Protection Association. <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/holidays/fireworks/fireworks-safety-tips>. Accessed March 2015.

<sup>5</sup> Using Fireworks Safely. National Safety Council. <http://www.nsc.org/Membership%20Site%20Document%20Library/Using-Fireworks-Safely.pdf>. Updated April 2009. Accessed March 2015.

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