



# Grilling, Fireworks, and Fire Safety

## How to Prevent Grilling, Firework and Fire Injuries

### What is the Problem?

Summertime...time to go outside and relax in the backyard, garden, grill, go for a swim, and just enjoy the great outdoors. While enjoying the great outdoors, it is important to practice grilling and fireworks safety to prevent unwanted fires. From 2006-2010, gas grills and charcoal/other solid-fuel grills caused an annual average of 7,100 and 1,200 home fires, respectively.<sup>1</sup> Fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires in 2010.<sup>2</sup>



### Facts

- In approximately half of home outdoor fires, 53% involved outside gas grills.<sup>3</sup>
- Emergency rooms treated approximately 8,600 people for firework-related injuries in the United States in 2010.<sup>4</sup>
- Children aged 5 to 14 years are at twice the risk of the general population for experiencing a firework-related injury.<sup>5</sup>
- There are more fires reported on Independence Day than on any other day in the United States.<sup>6</sup>
- Nearly 90% of emergency room visits for fireworks-related injuries involved fireworks consumers were permitted to use.<sup>7</sup>

### Prevention Tips

- Propane and charcoal barbeque grills should only be used outdoors.<sup>8</sup>
- Keep children and pets away from the grilling area.<sup>9</sup>
- Never leave your grill unattended.<sup>10</sup>
- Avoid wearing clothes with long, loose-fitting sleeves when cooking.<sup>11</sup>
- Keep your grill clean (remove grease or fat buildup).<sup>12</sup>
- Leave fireworks to the professionals.<sup>13</sup>



### **Plan of the Week (POW):**

Be sure to use safe grilling practices. **NEVER** leave your grill unattended or let children and pets play around the grilling area.<sup>14</sup> **ALWAYS** use barbeque grills outdoors and wear clothing with short, tight-fitting sleeves when cooking.<sup>15,16</sup> **NEVER** try to conduct your own display of fireworks. The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to attend a public display organized by trained professionals.<sup>17</sup>



### **References**

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### **NMCPHC Injury Prevention and Violence Free Living Webpage**

<http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/health-promotion/injury-violence-free-living/Pages/injury-violence-free-living.aspx>

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