



Grilling Safety

Grilling on campus...

The use of barbecue grills and stoves often involve the production of smoke and hot embers. Activities involving the use of this type of equipment must be approved by EHS prior to the event so that the University Fire Marshal can accomplish a site and equipment inspection prior to the event. Barbecue grill restrictions do not apply to commercial establishments, or residence halls having established patio areas. Any other event using barbecue grills must be preapproved by EHS fire marshal before use.

WKU Fire Marshal 270-745-2931

Charcoal Grill Safety Tips

Keep in mind that charcoal when burned in grills produces carbon monoxide (CO). CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Each year about 17 people die as a result of CO fumes from charcoal being burned indoors or in a poorly ventilated area. To reduce the risk of CO poisoning:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Barbeque Grill Safety

Each year about 600 fires/explosions occur with gas grills, causing injuries. Many of the accidents happen the first time a grill is ignited for the season or after the grill's gas container is refilled and reattached.

Before you plan your next outdoor cookout, review these safety tips:

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Make sure your grill's propane tank has a three-prong gas valve handle. As of April 1, 2002, the three-prong design replaced a five-prong handle as the safety standard.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Make sure your spark igniter is consistently generating a spark to create a flame and burn the propane gas. If the flame is not visible, the heavier-than-air propane gas may be escaping and could cause an explosion.
- Never bring the propane tank into the house.
- When using barbecue grills on decks or patios, be sure to leave sufficient space from siding and eaves.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills.

Charcoal / Wood Grilling Safety Tips

Keep in mind that charcoal when burning in grills produce carbon monoxide (CO). CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments. Each year about 17 people die as a result of CO fumes from charcoal being burned indoors or poorly ventilated areas. To reduce the risk of CO poisoning follow these tips:

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even in ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until it is completely extinguished, do not the grill indoors with freshly used coals.

Check List

- No tree limbs or any kind of combustible items above or around the grill area.
- Do not block or hinder sidewalks or public walkways.
- Always use an approved charcoal lighter to start the grill.
- Never dispose of charcoal in a trash can or container until it has been extinguished and cool to the touch.
- A fire extinguisher must be on site at all times.

Proposed location and date of the event

Name and contact number

Fire Marshal
