

Ashfield Fire Department

Fire Safety Education

Captain Michael Purcell

Grilling and Fire Safety

Summertime is a fun time of year with outdoor activities and family outings. Here are some fire safety tips on grilling outdoors.

1. When using an outdoor propane or charcoal cooking grill, keep the grill away from the house and other structures. These grills are for outdoor use only.
2. Keep at least a 3 foot no play zone around the grill. Keep children and pets away from grill. Keep children away from matches and lighters.
3. Do not wear loose clothing while grilling to prevent clothes from catching fire. If clothes catch fire, remember to **Stop, Drop** and **Roll**.
4. Use only grilling utensils that have long handles that will keep your hands away from the flame.
5. Never leave a lit grill unattended.

Make sure to use the proper starter fluid on charcoal grills and never add starter fluid to hot coals or active flame. To extinguish the coals after use, douse the coals with water and stir to make sure the fire is out. Dispose of coals and ashes in a **metal** container only.

For propane grills, make sure the fuel line is properly connected and secured to the propane tank. Have the fuel lines and connections inspected for leaks. Never start a propane grill that has leaking hoses or connections. It is recommended that a trained professional inspect and service your propane grill.

On another note, please check and test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms at least once every month. Change the batteries out twice a year. Practice your fire escape plan.

Stay safe and remember, in case of Emergency, dial 9-1-1.