

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2019



Contact:

Diana L. Klink
Office: 757.514.4104
Mobile: 757.359.1845

Tim Kelley
Office: 757.514.4103
Mobile: 757.871.3039

SUFFOLK FIRE & RESCUE PROVIDE SAFE GRILLING TIPS FOR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

SUFFOLK, VA (August 28, 2019) Suffolk Fire & Rescue wants everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend. Whether hitting the road for a mini-vacation, enjoying time outdoors on the water, or hosting a backyard barbeque, they urge you to make safety your number one priority.

According to national statistics, from 2013 to 2017, Fire Departments went to an annual average of 10,200 home fires involving grills, hibachis or barbecues per year, including 4,500 structure fires and 5,700 outside or unclassified fires. These fires caused an annual average of 10 civilian deaths, 160 civilian injuries and \$123 million in direct property damage.

Common sense grilling safety tips include the following:

- Keeping small children and pets away from the grill.
- Use long-handled utensils and an oven mitt. Wear a thick apron.
- Do not leave the grill unattended.
- Keep the grill clean. A build-up of grease makes it more susceptible to starting a fire.

- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches as well as other things that could possibly catch on fire.
- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling with charcoal, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container located away from the home or other structure.
- If using a propane grill, check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles. If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call 911. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call 911. Do not move the grill. When grilling, if the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before relighting it.

Fire prevention safety is a priority for the men and women of Suffolk Fire & Rescue throughout the year and Fire Marshal's Office staff and Firefighters are available for scheduled special presentations at schools, daycares, churches, civic groups, and other organizations. To schedule a presentation, or for more information, call 757-514-4550, or email fireprevbureau@suffolkva.us.

###