



Virginia Propane Gas Association

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Grill Safely This Holiday Weekend!

(May 26, 2010) — Memorial Day weekend marks the starts of outdoor cookout season. Whether it be in the backyard, by the pool, or out at the lake with friends, there is always the potential lurking for a summertime barbecue to become a summertime disaster. To ensure those who use propane-fueled gas grills enjoy a safe and healthy summer, the Virginia Propane Gas Association offers the following safety do's and don'ts:

- When you have your cylinder refilled, check for dents, damage, rust or leaks.
- After filling, take your cylinder home immediately. During transportation of the cylinder, secure the cylinder so it cannot roll and keep the valve closed and plugged or capped.
- Use and store extra cylinders outdoors, in an upright position away from ignition sources.
- If grill surfaces have any hard, baked on remnants from the last time the grill was used, remove the cooking grids and spray them with a good degreaser, then scrub or scrape with a long handled scaper. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for and keep written manuals in a safe, accessible place.
- Before lighting your propane gas grill burner, use soapy water (a leak detector) to check all connections for tightness. Contact your local propane gas supplier if you are not sure how to check for leaks, and NEVER use matches or lighters to check for leaks.
- Never pour an accelerant, such as lighter fluid, on a propane grill.
- Do not smoke while handling a propane tank.
- If there is a significant and uncontrollable release of propane (which is odorized to aid in leak detection) or a fire starts, call your local fire department immediately and move all people and pets away from the unit.
- Make sure the grill burner controls AND the cylinder valve are turned off when not in use.
- Make sure the gas grill is shut off and cooled off before covering grill after use.

“The start of grilling season is an ideal time to remind ourselves about grilling safety so that every cookout can be fun and safe,” said Dennis Cruise, Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Propane Gas Association. He adds that a 20 lb. propane tank commonly used with gas grills provides enough fuel for approximately 12-18 hours of cooking.

For additional information about safe grilling tips, propane grills or other propane appliances, please visit www.usepropane.com.

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