



# FIRE DEPARTMENT CITY OF NEW YORK

## FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION

Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Daniel A. Nigro, Fire Commissioner

# SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

The FDNY FireDog "Twenty" rides along with the Firefighters of Ladder Company 20 in Manhattan.



**H**ow to have hot fun in the summer time without getting burned!

Every season brings its own safety hazards. During the summer months there is an increased risk of fire associated with the use of barbecues, gasoline, air conditioners and other electrical appliances.

Spring into Summer by protecting yourself and your family by taking the following precautions.

### FIRE SAFETY TIPS

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### FIRE HYDRANTS

**P**arking your car in front of a fire hydrant delays firefighters from getting water on a fire!  
**DON'T RISK A LIFE.**

**TO REPORT  
A BLOCKED FIRE HYDRANT  
OR AN IMPROPERLY  
OPENED HYDRANT**



**A**n open fire hydrant without a sprinkler cap wastes 1000 gallons of water per minute--as much in an hour as an entire family of four uses in a year!

Open fire hydrants will also hamper fire-fighting capabilities, putting your neighborhood at risk.

**If you must use the hydrant to stay cool, visit your local firehouse and they will install a SPRINKLER CAP and open the hydrant for use.**



Leave  
**FIREWORKS**  
to the **PROFESSIONALS**

**A**mateur use of fireworks can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, fires and even death. For these reasons, the possession and use of any fireworks, without exception, is illegal in New York City. Leave the fireworks to the professionals and enjoy the many fireworks displays scheduled throughout the City. These displays are conducted under the supervision of the FDNY.

*If you are aware of or suspect the illegal sale or use of fireworks, you should call:*



For more Fire Safety info visit the FDNY Websites  
[www.nyc.gov/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/fdny)  
[www.fdneyfoundation.org](http://www.fdneyfoundation.org)

# LIGHT YOUR FIRE IN SAFETY

Every year barbecue grills on residential properties cause more than 1,500 structural fires and 4,200 outdoor fires. Many of these fires occurred when a propane grill was used for the first time after winter storage.

## PRE-SEASON CHECK FOR PROPANE BBQ GRILLS

- ❑ Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects or food grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear any blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner.
- ❑ Visually inspect the propane hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks. A soap and water solution may be used to test for leaks. Never use a flame to check for gas leaks.
- ❑ Move propane hoses as far as possible from hot surfaces and dripping grease.
- ❑ Visually inspect the propane tank. If it has dents, gouges, bulges, corrosion, leakage, or excessive rust, return the tank to the propane gas distributor.
- ❑ Do not attempt to repair the propane tank valve or the appliance yourself. Have a qualified repair-person make the repairs.
- ❑ Follow the maintenance instructions provided in the grill owner's manual.

## PROPANE BBQ GRILLING OPERATIONS

- ❑ Barbecue grills are designed for outdoor use only. Never barbecue in your trailer, tent, house, garage, or any enclosed area as carbon monoxide may accumulate and kill you.
- ❑ When the propane tank is connected, the grill must be kept outside in a well-ventilated space. When not in use, the propane tank valve must be turned to the OFF or CLOSED position.
- ❑ Position the grill in an open area at least 10 feet away from buildings, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- ❑ Use barbecue utensils with long handles to avoid burns and splatters.
- ❑ Wear short or tight fitting sleeves and use flame retardant mitts.
- ❑ Have a charged garden hose or bucket of sand

available to extinguish any small grill flare-ups.

- ❑ Once lit, never leave a grill unattended.
- ❑ Never store a propane tank indoors or below ground level.
- ❑ The storage of a spare propane cylinder is strongly discouraged. Find a local propane distributor who will exchange an empty tank for a full one on the spot.



## TRANSPORTING PROPANE TANKS

**Precautions should be taken while transporting propane tanks (whether full or empty).**

Propane tanks should be secured in an upright position in the back seat of your car, or in the pick-up bed of your truck, with transportation plugs on the outlet valve connection. Avoid having other passengers in the car, especially children. Never leave a propane tank unattended in your car.

## PROHIBITED USE OF GRILLS

**It is strictly prohibited and illegal** in New York City to:

- ❑ store or use a propane grill on the roof of any building.
- ❑ use a charcoal grill on the roof of any building.
- ❑ store or use a propane grill on a residential property with a three or more family residence.
- ❑ store or use a propane grill on the terrace or balcony of an apartment building.

**THE USE OF PORTABLE OUTDOOR PATIO FIREPLACES, PATIO HEARTHES, FIRE PITS AND CHIMENYS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED AND ILLEGAL IN NEW YORK CITY.**

## KEEP YOUR FAMILY FIRE SAFE



### INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Test them often to make sure they work.  
Replace the batteries at least twice a year when you change your clock for daylight savings.

PROUDLY SERVING SINCE 1865



FDNY

Do You Have Smoke Alarms in Your Home?

## CAUTION: GASOLINE

**G**asoline is used to fuel many household appliances. In addition to our cars, gasoline is used in lawn care equipment, power washers, air compressors, snow blowers, boats and motorcycles. It has become so much a part of our everyday lives that we often forget how dangerous it can be if not properly stored or used.

Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and will move along close to the ground. These vapors will ignite with violence if an ignition source is reached, such as a pilot light, a lit cigarette, or a spark.

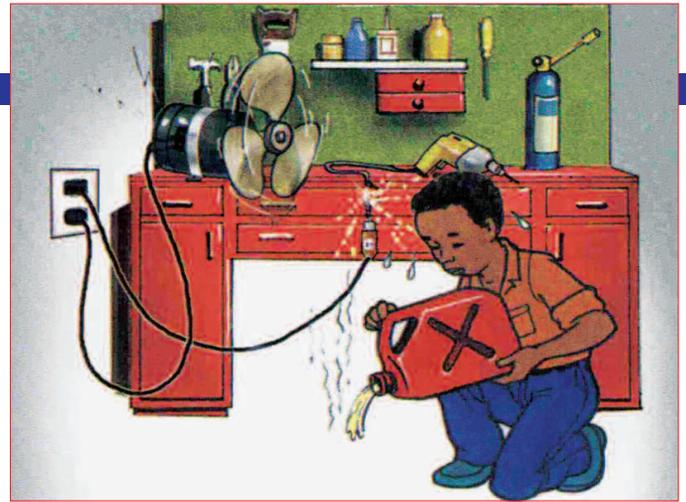
**If gasoline vapors ignite, one gallon can explode with the same force as 14 sticks of dynamite.**

Don't be fuelish! Take the following precautions when handling, storing and disposing of gasoline.

### FILLING A PORTABLE GAS CONTAINER AT SERVICE STATION

**In New York City, it is illegal for any person, other than the service station attendant to dispense gasoline into a portable container. Only one-gallon approved safety containers are permitted.**

- ▲ Shut off your vehicles engine. DO NOT SMOKE.
- ▲ Remove the container from the vehicle and place the container on the ground. Portable containers should not be filled when located inside a truck, passenger compartment or truck bed of a vehicle.
- ▲ Have the attendant fill the container only 95 percent full to allow for expansion during temperature changes.
- ▲ After filling, ensure that the container cap and vent cap are secured tightly.
- ▲ When transporting the gasoline container, place the container in the pickup bed or car trunk. Secure the container so it will not tip or slide around. Never place the container in the passenger compartment.
- ▲ Never leave the container in direct sunlight or unattended in the truck of the car.



### STORAGE AND HANDLING OF PORTABLE GAS CONTAINERS

- ▲ Store only a 30-day supply, but not more than one gallon in an approved safety container.
- ▲ Never store gasoline in plastic containers such as a milk jug or in glass jars.
- ▲ Store gasoline in a cool and well-ventilated area.
- ▲ Store gasoline away (at least 50 feet) from any source of heat or open flame, such as a pilot light.
- ▲ Store gasoline in the garage or a well-ventilated shed. Never store gasoline in the house or in a garage where a boiler or hot water heater is installed.
- ▲ Store gasoline out of children's sight and reach.
- ▲ Never use gasoline as a cleaner, charcoal starter or solvent.
- ▲ Allow gas-powered equipment, such as a lawnmower to cool before refueling. (Refueling hot powered equipment can cause vapors to ignite.)
- ▲ Refuel equipment outdoors.
- ▲ Never dispose of gasoline by pouring it into the ground or into a sewer, street drain, stream or placing it into the trash. These actions are environmentally harmful and may cause a fire or explosion.

## NATURAL GAS SAFETY IN THE HOME

**N**atural gas is used as a fuel for many things in our homes, like cooking, heating and drying clothes. While rare, a natural gas line leak is extremely dangerous due to the potential of an explosion.

Natural gas has no scent of its own, so for safety reasons, an odorant similar to rotten eggs is added. The rotten egg scent helps you detect even the tiniest gas leak.

**POSSIBLE SOURCES OF NATURAL GAS LEAKS IN THE HOME ARE THE PILOT LIGHTS OF GAS-FIRED STOVES, FURNACES AND HOT WATER HEATERS**

### **IF YOU THINK YOU SMELL GAS OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK:**

- ✓ Open doors and windows to let in fresh air.
- ✓ Do not turn on or off any electrical appliances or light switches.
- ✓ Do not attempt to locate the leak.
- ✓ Do not use the house-phone or a cell-phone within the house.
- ✓ Do not smoke or light matches or lighters.
- ✓ Leave the house and from a safe distance call 911.



**Never hesitate to CALL 911 if you smell gas!**

# ELECTRICITY

## HANDLE WITH CARE



**T**wo-thirds of all electrical fires begin in plugs or cords on appliances such as refrigerators, air conditioners or lamps. Frayed cords expose the electrical wires that spark on contact with each other or anything that can ground the electrical current.

### **Overloaded electrical outlets are one of the major causes of residential fires.**

When too many lights and appliances are attached to the electrical system, it will overload and then overheat. The heat causes the wire insulation to melt and ignite, resulting in an electrical fire.

Special attention should be given to large appliances that use high wattage, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, irons, microwave ovens, dishwashers, and deep fryers. Avoid plugging them into the same outlet or circuit.

**Most electrical fires can be prevented.** Take the proper safety measures and regularly check your electrical appliances, cords and outlets.

- ❑ Use light bulbs with the appropriate wattage for the size of the light fixture. A bulb of too high wattage may lead to overheating and fire.
- ❑ Extension cords are only for temporary use. Most cannot carry as much current as permanent wiring and tend to overheat. If using an extension cord, be sure it is designed to carry the intended load.
- ❑ Never use an extension cord for large appliances such as air conditioners.
- ❑ Protect all electrical cords from damage. Do not run cords under carpets or rugs, around objects or hang from nails.
- ❑ When purchasing an electrical appliance such as a toaster or coffee maker, be sure that the equipment has the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Mark. The UL mark shows that the product has been safety tested.

- ❑ Inspect appliances regularly to make sure they operate properly. If an appliance begins to operate with a different smell, or makes unusual sounds or the cord feels warm to touch, pull the plug and discontinue use. If burning or smoking occurs from the appliance, call the Fire Department (911).
- ❑ Never use an appliance with a damaged cord. Be sure to use three-pronged electrical devices in three pronged outlets. If three-prong outlets are not available in your home, purchase a three-prong adapter from any hardware store.
- ❑ Give televisions, stereos and computers plenty of air space clearance so they won't overheat.
- ❑ To prevent overloading, never plug more than two appliances into an outlet at once or "piggy-back" extra appliances on extension cords or wall outlets. Use only outlets designed to handle multiple plugs.

All wiring systems have circuit breakers or fuses that disconnect power when circuits become overloaded. This is a safety feature to prevent overheating. When a fuse or circuit breaker trips, find the cause and correct it. Never use oversized fuses or foil wrap a fuse or substitute a fuse with a penny. This will cancel the safety device designed to prevent overheating and cause a fire.

**If your electrical outlet is hot to the touch, unplug all appliances and have the wiring inspected as soon as possible.**



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