



**City of Alamogordo**  
**Alamogordo Fire Department**  
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## **Grill Safety**

With the onset of summer activities and as the barbecue season nears, grill masters are reaching for their spatulas, eager to usher in the long-awaited cooking season. The Alamogordo Fire Department urges grillers to be particularly mindful of cooking safety in the spring and summer months, when grilling fires most often occur. According to National Fire Protection Agency, (NFPA) latest “Home Grill Fire” report, three out of five households own a gas grill, which means a lot of great food and family times. But, it also means there’s a notable risk of home fires. From 2009 – 2013, an annual average of 8,900 home fires involved grills, hibachis or barbecues, and almost half of all grilling injuries involved thermal burns. Although many (nearly half) of grillers do so year-round, grilling fires peak in July, followed by May, June and August.

### **How to use Barbecue Grills Safely**

- Never leave a barbecue grill unattended.
- Place the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches. Don't use or store on a porch or balcony.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Put out several long-handled grilling tools to give the chef plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking food.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Use only outdoors! If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, barbecue grills pose both a fire hazard and a risk of exposing occupants to carbon monoxide.

**The Alamogordo Fire Departments main goal is to eliminate all injuries due to fires. Remember we can all do our part this “Summer Season” by eliminating all fires by being “Fire Smart”. The Alamogordo Fire Department wishes you and your family a safe summer.**

**REMEMBER OUR MAIN GOAL IS TO STAY SAFE AND ALWAYS FIRE SMART**