

# **BBQ Safety Messages**

Fire Safety Webinar Series

July 13, 2022

Presented by: Connie Biggs, Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal



# Upcoming Events

- Building Rapport with Youth – July 27, 2022
- Pet Safety and Preparedness – August 10, 2022
- Insight Overview – August 24, 2022



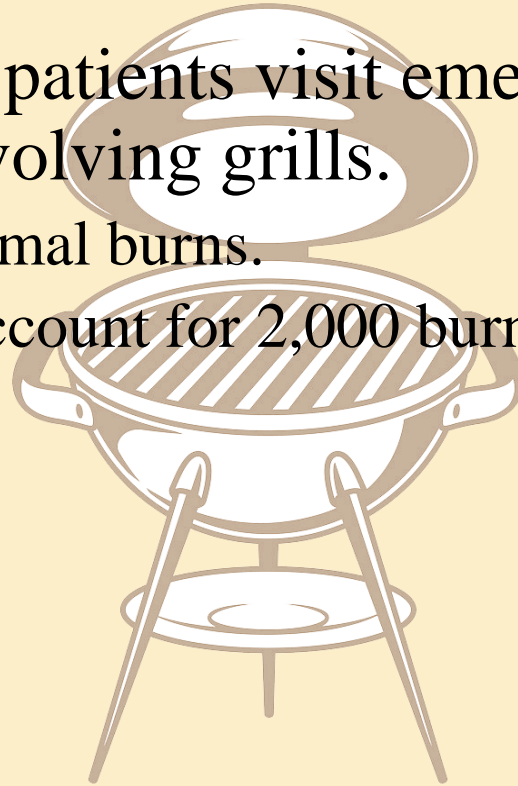
# July is the Peak Month for Grill Fires

- Fire Departments respond to an average of 10,600 fires involving grills each year.
  - 4,900 structure fires
  - 10 civilian deaths
  - 160 reported injuries
  - \$149 million in property damage



# July is the Peak Month for Grill Fires

- An average of 19,700 patients visit emergency rooms each year because of injuries involving grills.
  - 9,500 injuries are thermal burns.
  - Children under five account for 2,000 burns.



# July is the Peak Month for Grill Fires

- Grill fires are most common in **July** (18%), followed by:

**June** (15%)

**May** (13%)

**August** (12%)



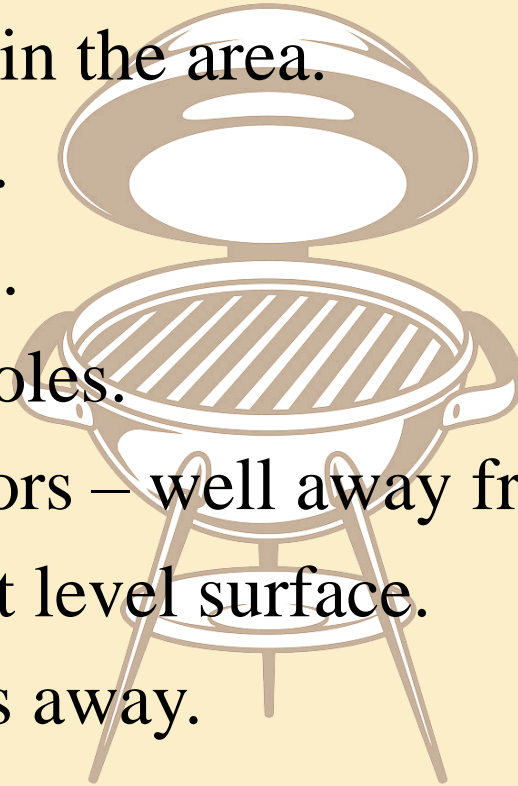
# Who is Our Audience?

- Seven out of every 10 adults in the U.S. own a BBQ grill or smoker.
  - Gas grills account for 8,900 residential fires.
  - Charcoal grills account for 1,300 residential fires.
  - Other outdoor cooking devices account for 400 residential fires.



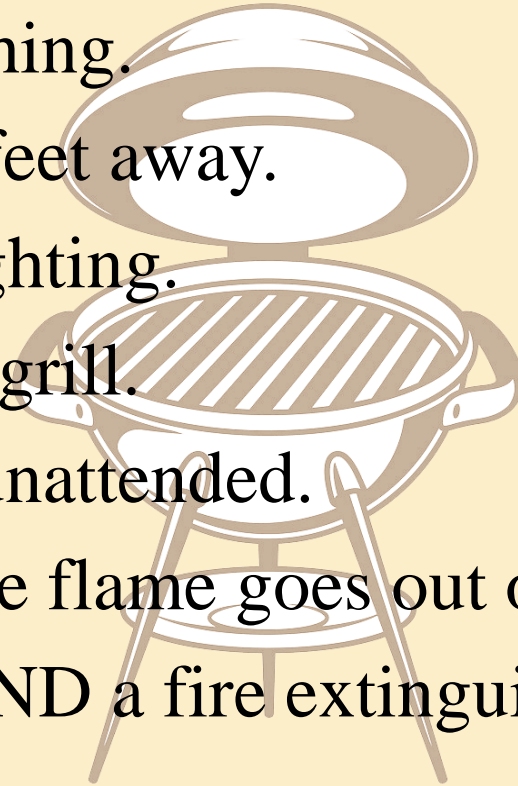
# Prepare Before Grilling

- Know the restrictions in the area.
- Read the Users Guide.
- Start with a clean grill.
- Check for leaks and holes.
- Locate the grill outdoors – well away from siding and deck railing.
- Place the grill on a flat level surface.
- Keep flammable items away.



# Prevent Fires While Grilling

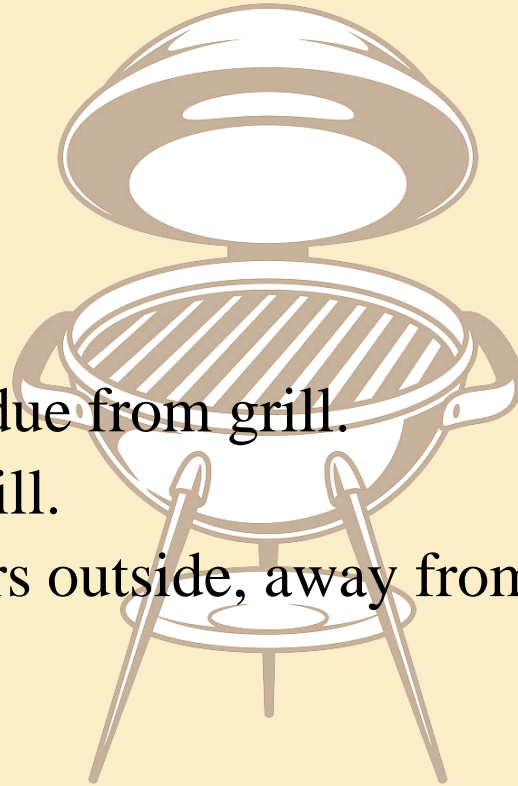
- Wear appropriate clothing.
- Keep kids and pets 3 feet away.
- Pay attention when lighting.
- Do not overload your grill.
- Never leave the grill unattended.
- Know what to do if the flame goes out or the coals go cold.
- Keep a spray bottle AND a fire extinguisher nearby.





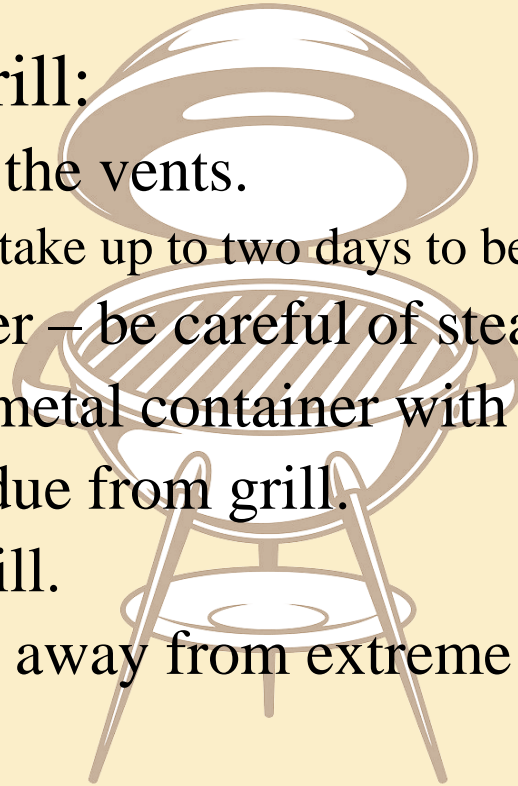
# Shut It Down Safely

- Steps for a gas grill:
  - Leave the lid open.
  - Turn off propane.
  - Turn off grill knobs.
  - Clean grease and residue from grill.
  - Close and store the grill.
  - Store propane canisters outside, away from extreme heat.



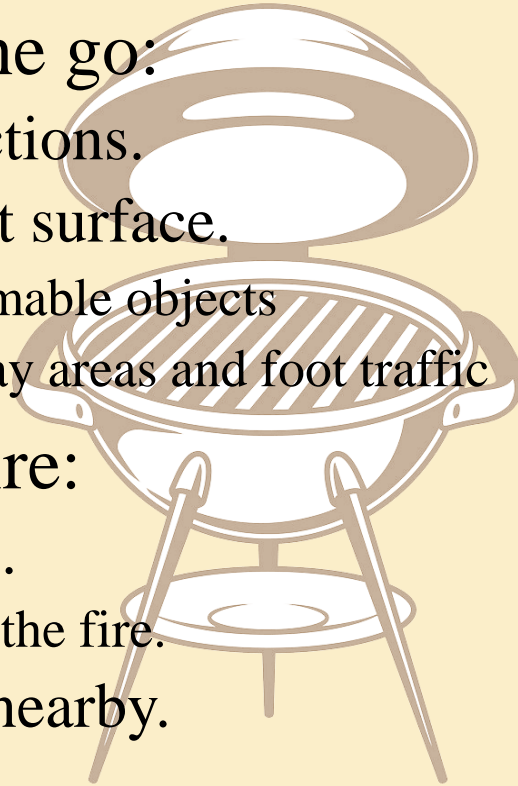
# Shut It Down Safely

- Steps for a charcoal grill:
  - Close the lid and shut the vents.
    - Charcoal and ash can take up to two days to become cold.
  - Douse coals with water – be careful of steam!
  - Move cool coals to a metal container with a tight-fitting lid.
  - Clean grease and residue from grill.
  - Close and store the grill.
  - Store unused charcoal away from extreme heat.



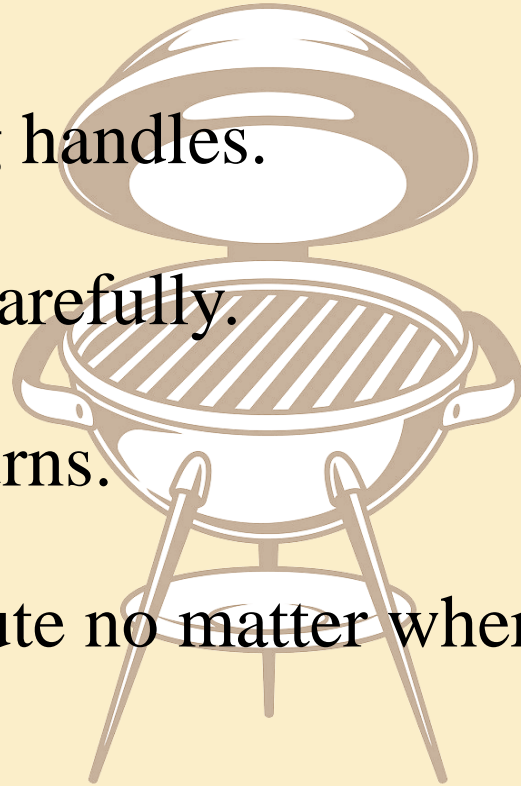
# Grilling at Camp

- Taking your grill on the go:
  - Check for local restrictions.
  - Place the grill on a flat surface.
    - Well away from flammable objects
    - Safe distance from play areas and foot traffic
- Grilling over a campfire:
  - Use approved fire pits.
    - Clear the area around the fire.
  - Have water and sand nearby.



# Additional Cooking Safety Messages for Summer

- Use utensils with long handles.
- Position pot handles carefully.
- Know First Aid for burns.
- Know your escape route no matter where you are.



# How to Send the Message

- Printed material with pointed messaging.
- Have a theme at table events.
- Keep special swag for BBQ Season.
- Make educational materials available at your station and/or in your department vehicles.



# Resources

- Outdoor Cooking Fire Safety – Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal  
<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/Pages/Wildland-Urban-Interface.aspx>
- Grilling Safety – NFPA  
[https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Grilling\\_safety\\_Tips.pdf](https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Public-Education/Resources/Safety-tip-sheets/Grilling_safety_Tips.pdf)
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