

## Grilling Safety Tips

by, Mattie Jaros, Fire Lieutenant

As spring arrives, many of us will be eager to get out and enjoy the warmer weather. This often involves starting up the grill to cook our food outside. Did you know that most grill fires start because something that could burn was too close to the grill?

According to the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, most home fires involving a grill are started by gas grills.

Here are some safety tips to help prevent your grilling experience from becoming a catastrophe:

- Never grill indoors.
- When grilling, make sure your grill is away from your home, deck railings and out from under eaves.
- Stay attentive and nearby your grill.
- Check the gas tank hose on propane grills before using them. Hose lines can crack causing gas to leak out.
- When lighting gas grills, keep the top open. If you cannot get the grill to light within the first several attempts, wait five minutes before trying again.
- Keep your grill clean. Grease build-up can easily catch fire.

Please remember these safety tips as you enjoy your grilling experience. ■

