



TOWN OF CANTON VOLUNTEER Fire & EMS Department

Valuing Life...at a Moment's Notice



In Response....

From the Desk of Fire & EMS Chief Rich Hutchings

Town of Canton Volunteer Fire & EMS Department

Grilling Safety Tips to Protect the Youngest BBQ Enthusiasts

True Story: That quintessential warm weather smell wafting off the barbeque was just too tempting an invitation for the little Canton girl. While still too small to see into the grill, she stood up on her tip toes and putting both hands on the sides of the barbeque, leaned over it to see what was cooking. When Canton's volunteer EMTs responded to the 9-11 dispatch, they found that when the hot charcoal grill toppled over onto her, it had caused severe 2nd and 3rd degree burns to her hands, face and chest.

In Response to the coming months of peak grill fires and emergencies, part of the prep for the perfect BBQ must include some basic safety measures to protect your youngest guests and family members.

Prevent Before You Preheat: In 2007, the National Fire Protection Association, (NFPA), reported that 25% of all thermal grill burns were on children under the age of five. So, before the charcoal is preheated or the gas is turned on, make sure that all children and pets are either out of the immediate area of the grill or are supervised by a responsible adult. Don't ever leave the grill unattended. And keep charcoal fluid in a place where curious, small hands cannot reach it.

Because 33% of the nearly 8,000 annual grill/BBQ/hibachi fires start on exterior balconies or porches according to the NFPA, additional preventative measures to protect children and their adult companions should be taken. Only use grills out of doors away from your residence, deck railings, eaves and hanging branches. Lastly, a clean grill not only makes a tastier meal, but helps to prevent fires. After you have enjoyed your meal, be sure that coals are allowed to cool completely before disposal in a metal container.

This is the very best time of year for many of us. So please keep in mind that Canton's volunteer firefighters and EMTs always prefer to be invited guests to your BBQ versus emergency responders.

As part of Canton Volunteer Fire & EMS Department's ongoing partnership with the community, each month *In Response* will suggest ways to empower you in your own safety, and ultimately assist volunteer fire and EMS personnel should we ever have to respond to an emergency in your life.

Until then..... be safe.

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