

State Auto® Claims and Risk Engineering

Grilling Safety



An average of 19,000 patients per year end up in the hospital because of grill-based injuries and gas and charcoal grills combined cause around 4,200 house fires and 5,600 external fires per year.*

We have some tips to consider for a safe grilling season.

Family Safety:

- Use gas and charcoal grills outside only — open your gas grill before lighting
- Check propane gas lines for leaks by applying a solution of soap and water — a leak will release bubbles
- Do not use lighter fluid on hot coals
- Create a 3-foot space around the grill and keep children and pets at a safe distance
- Keep your grill clean — remove grease buildup from the grate and tray below the grill to help reduce flare-ups
- Never leave your grill unattended

Protecting Your Home and Assets:

- Keep grills at least 10 feet away from railings and structures
- Do not use grills under awnings, porch roofs, or eaves
- Know how to put out a fire
 - Have a fire extinguisher ready
 - Close the grill lid
 - If you can safely, turn off burners on propane grills
 - Do not use water on grease fires or flare-ups, use baking soda to smother flames instead
- Dispose of coals in a metal container with a lid once they are cool

*Sourced from NFPA's 2019 Research Fact Sheet

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