

Be BBQ safe this summer

JOURNAL STAFF

There is no doubt that the summer months bring the barbeque masters out of the kitchen and into the yard. Each year fire departments around the nation respond to an average of 7,900 home fires involving grills. Thirty-three percent of home grill structure fires start on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.

Because summer months are the peak times for grill fires in Washington, Lake Stevens Fire offers some safety tips to keep you from becoming a grill fire statistic:

Propane Grills:

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it the first time each year.

If you smell gas while you're cooking, get away from the grill and call 911.

Charcoal Grills:

Only use charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.

Let coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

All Grills:

Only use grills outside and away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets away from the grill area.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup.

Never leave your grill unattended.