Appalachian State University
BBQ Grill Safety

The Occupational Safety & Health Department would like to remind everyone of some safe grilling practices for those office cookouts.

1. Grills must be located at least 10 feet away from buildings and other combustible materials. This applies to materials located both vertically and horizontally from the grill.

2. Make sure that the grill is level and steady. Also, keep a fire extinguisher, water hose or a container of water nearby.

3. Charcoal and lighter fluid may NOT be stored inside of university buildings. A good tip is to buy charcoal which doesn’t require lighter fluid and buy only what you will use for a single cookout. Charcoal which has become wet or damp should be disposed of immediately, as it can spontaneously combust.

4. Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start fires in charcoal grills. Never use gasoline, kerosene or other unapproved liquids. Once the coals have been lit, never add lighter fluid to the fire. Flames can burn back up the stream of fluid and cause the container to explode in your hands.

5. After the barbecue - make sure that the hot coals from the grill are in a safe location. Do not allow the coals to come in contact with anything that will burn. Always allow your grill to thoroughly cool before storing it.

Have fun, be safe, and enjoy!

If you have any questions, please contact the Occupational Safety & Health Department at 262-4007.

Updated 02/14/2011