

## Spring Grilling Safety

Each year, about 600 fires/explosions nationally occur with **gas grills** resulting in injuries to about 30 people. Propane gas is highly flammable. The newer safety standard for propane gas tanks requires that an "over-fill prevention device" be installed in new gas tanks. These newer propane gas tanks have valve handles with three "lobes" (prongs) while older tanks have valve handles with five prongs. People with older propane gas tanks should trade them in for the newer, safer tanks.

Each year about 19 people die nationally as a result of carbon monoxide (CO) fumes from charcoal being burned inside. Charcoal produces CO when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments.

**Look for our separate article on CO.**

**All Grills should be kept at least ten feet from any structure-even the porch rail.**

### Gas Grill Safety Tips

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

### Charcoal Grill Safety Tips

- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents, or campers even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals. Glowing coals are still burning, even though they do not show flames!
- Make sure coals are cold and watered down before discarding them. It is good practice to place them in a metal container to prevent the ashes from causing a fire.

For more information on Spring Grilling Safety, call the City of Newton Fire Department (828)695-4334.

