



TOWNSHIP OF WARMINSTER

Department of Emergency Management & Services

Grill Fires Fact Sheet from NFPA

(2009 – 2013)

Fact Sheet Highlights:

- An average of 8,900 home fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues
- Average of 10 civilian deaths
- Average of 160 injuries (that were reported)
- \$118 million in property damage
- July is Peak month
- Leading causes –
 - ü failure to clean
 - ü grills too close to combustibles
 - ü unattended grills
- Patio/Porch was the place of origin 27% of the time in structure fires involving grilling
- 2014 - 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grilling

Grilling Safety:

- C Clean your grills regularly.
- C Keep your grills at least 10 feet away from combustible materials.
- D Do not grill on your balcony or porch - 27% of grill fires started here.
- D Do not leave your grill unattended.
- C Gas Grills – check for leaks regularly & tighten connections. Clean the grease trays.
- C Charcoal Grills – use charcoal starting fluid; **✗** never gasoline or other flammable liquids.
- D Never add starting fluid to a fire.
- C Place cooled charcoal ashes into a **metal** container, never plastic bags or plastic cans.
- D Never use a propane or charcoal grill indoors.



RESEARCH

HOME FIRES INVOLVING GRILLS FACT SHEET

In 2009-2013, U.S. fire departments responded to an average of 8,900 home¹ fires involving grills, hibachis, or barbecues per year, including an average of 3,900 structure fires and 5,100 outside fires. These 8,900 fires caused annual averages of 10 civilian deaths, 160 reported civilian injuries, \$118 million in direct property damage.

- Almost all the losses resulted from structure fires.
- July was the peak month for grill fires but these incidents occur throughout the year.

Causes of Grill Fires

The leading causes of grill fires were a failure to clean, having the grill too close to something that could catch fire and leaving the grill unattended.

A leak or break was the leading cause for outside or unclassified grill fires. Leaks or breaks were primarily a problem with gas grills.

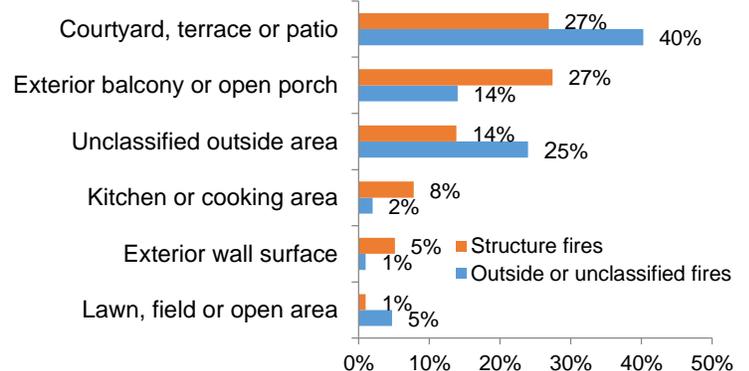
Gas vs. Solid-Fueled Grills

Five out of six (83%) grills involved in home fires were fueled by gas while 13% used charcoal or other solid fuel.

Gas grills were involved in an average of 7,400 home fires per year, including 3,100 structure fires and 4,300 outdoor fires annually.

Charcoal or other solid-fueled grills were involved in 1,200 home fires per year, including 600 structure fires and 500 outside fires annually.

Home grill fires by leading areas of origin 2009-2013



One-quarter (27%) of home structure fires involving grills started on or in a courtyard, terrace, or patio, or on an exterior balcony or open porch;

- 27% started on an exterior balcony or open porch;
- 8% began in the kitchen; and
- 5% started on an exterior wall surface.

Emergency Room Visits Due to Grills

In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills.²

More than half (8,700) of the injuries were thermal burns.

Children under five accounted for 1,600 or one-third of the 4,900 thermal non-fire grill burns. These were typically contact burns rather than flame burns.

¹Homes include one- or two-family homes, apartments, town houses, row houses, and manufactured housing.

²Data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, queried in March 2016