



**OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
University of California Santa Cruz  
Designated Campus Fire Marshal Program  
Fire Safety and Prevention  
1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064



## CAMPUS OPEN FLAME / COOKING SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

### GENERAL GRILLING SAFETY

- **TURKEY FRYERS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY UCSC EVENT.**
- Barbecue grills should be used on a firm, flat, stable surface.
- Grills should not be used indoors which includes: garages, carports, balconies or beneath any structure equipped with an overhang.
- Grills should not be used within 10ft. of any building, structure, vehicles and combustible materials.
- Place the grill a safe distance from event attendees and out of paths of travel.
- Fire extinguishers should be readily available when using any barbecue grill.
- Loose clothing should not be worn when grilling.
- Never leave the barbecue grill unattended.
- Long utensils should always be used to avoid burning.
- Never attempt to relocate a grill once the fire has been lit or a grill that is hot.

### ELECTRICAL GRILL SAFETY

- Never immerse or expose cords, plug or heating elements in water or other liquid.
- Electric grill should not be used in the rain.
- Do not use an electric grill near combustible or flammable materials.
- Visually inspect cord, plug and all connections for damage and wear prior to grilling.
- All knobs should be in the OFF position when unplugging or plugging the grill into an electrical outlet.
- Unplug the grill from the electrical outlet prior to cleaning or when not in use.
- To ensure protection against risk from shock, the electric grill should be connected to a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).

### CHARCOAL GRILLING SAFETY

- Never use gasoline or kerosene to light a charcoal fire. Additional lighting fluid should not be added to an already lit charcoal grill.
- Because charcoal produces carbon monoxide fumes, do not store charcoal grills indoors until charcoal is completely extinguished and disposed of.
- Never dispose of hot coals in garbage; allow ashes to cool or pour water onto them. After the ashes have fully cooled, wrap in aluminum foil and then dispose of them in outdoor garbage.
- Hot coals can exceed temperatures of 1000 degrees. Use insulated flame-retardant mitts when cooking or handling any part of the grill.
- Keep water nearby for flare-ups.

### GAS GRILLING SAFETY

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when connecting or disconnecting a gas grill.
- By cleaning and performing general maintenance on a gas grill, it can assist in keeping them safer to use.
- Check tubes leading to burners for any form of blockage. Check hoses for cracks, leaks or brittleness. Ensure that there are no sharp bends in hoses. If cracks or leaks appear in hoses, follow manufacturer's suggestions to check for leaks and replacement of damaged hoses.
- Make certain that the propane cylinder does not have any dents, gouges, bulges, and leaks, fire damage or rust. Cylinders should be replaced if any of these signs are evident.
- Use a gas grill in a well ventilated area.
- Keep lit cigarettes and open flame away from the gas grill.
- Always store the propane cylinder in a secured upright position.
- Make certain that the propane cylinder has an overfill prevention device.
- Do not store propane cylinders in a hot car or area that can be exposed to high heat. High temperatures will force the gas pressure to increase and possibly open the relief valve – filling the area with gas.

- Always make certain that the control knobs for the gas grills are in the OFF position prior to igniting and when storing the grill. When the grill is not in use, the knob on the propane cylinder should be in the OFF position as well.
- If the gas grill fails to light on the first attempt, turn the burner control off and allow the gas to dissipate prior to trying again.
- If the fire on the burners of a gas grill goes out during cooking, turn all of the knobs to the OFF position. Open the lid and wait five minutes before attempting to relight.
- Always start gas grills with the lid in the open position. Gas can collect if the lid is down which can create an explosion when the grill is lit.

#### WHAT TO DO IF A GAS GRILL IS LEAKING

- Liquid Propane (LP) is an odorless gas. Ethyl Mercaptan is an ingredient added to propane, which permits it to have an odor. The added ingredient allows the user to recognize that the propane cylinder is leaking. A “rotten egg” smell indicates a gas leak.
- Do not turn electric switches off or on, light matches or do anything that could ignite gas.
- Immediately get all people out of the area.
- Close valve on propane tank. Turn knobs on the grill to the OFF position. Do not turn valves on or re-enter the area until the leak has been corrected.
- Call the Fire Department at 9-1-1.