

# CITY OF MUSCATINE



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## NOTHING LIKE OUTDOOR GRILLING IN THE SUMMER

Stay Safe this grilling season with essential backyard grilling safety tips

**MUSCATINE, Iowa** – As temperatures rise and families fire up their grills for outdoor meals and gatherings, the Muscatine Fire Department (MFD) reminds everyone that backyard grilling safety is essential to prevent fires, injuries, and property damage.

"We encourage everyone to enjoy the grilling season, but always with safety top of mind," Mike Hartman, Interim Fire Chief, said. "A few simple precautions can mean the difference between a delicious barbecue and a devastating fire."



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According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), an average of 10,600 home fires are started by grills each year. While grilling is a beloved summer tradition, it can quickly turn dangerous if safety precautions are ignored.

## Top Backyard Grilling Safety Tips:

1. **Grill Outdoors and Away from Structures**

Only use grills outside, at least 10 feet away from your home, deck railings, and overhanging branches.

2. **Keep Your Grill Clean**

Remove grease buildup from grills and trays below the grill to reduce flare-ups.

3. **Never Leave the Grill Unattended**

Stay with your grill at all times while it's on. Keep children and pets at least three feet away.

4. **Check for Gas Leaks**

For gas grills, regularly inspect propane tanks and hoses for leaks before use.

5. **Use Proper Tools and Wear Safe Clothing**

Long-handled tools and flame-resistant mitts can prevent burns. Avoid loose clothing.

6. **Be Prepared to Extinguish Flames**

Have a fire extinguisher, baking soda, or a bucket of sand nearby in case of emergencies.

7. **Let Coals Cool Completely**

For charcoal grills, allow coals to cool completely before disposing of them in a metal container.

In light of two recent porch fires in Muscatine, the MFD is emphasizing the importance of backyard grilling safety as residents enjoy the warmer weather. One incident resulted in an

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injury and was intensified by a propane tank discharging gas through its pressure release valve, leading to intense flames.

"These recent incidents serve as a stark reminder of the potential dangers associated with grilling," Battalion Chief Gary Ronzheimer stated. "By following safety guidelines, residents can enjoy outdoor cooking while minimizing risks."

For more information on fire safety and prevention, please visit the Muscatine Fire Department's official website: [Warm Weather Safety](#).

For more grilling safety tips and fire prevention resources, visit [National Fire Protection Association](#)