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## Barbecue Safety

The onset of warm weather signals the beginning of Barbecue Season! Fire Chief Scott Goldstein of the Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service wants you and your loved ones to enjoy this season ***SAFELY!*** Below are some tips from the National Fire Protection Association that he hopes will help:

- Always supervise a barbecue grill when in use.
- Position the grill well away from siding, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets far away from grills: declare a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill.
- No grilling allowed on apartment or condo balconies!
- With charcoal grills, only use charcoal starter fluids designed for barbecue grills and do not add fluid after coals have been lit. **NEVER** use gasoline!
- With gas grills, be sure that the hose connection is tight and check hoses carefully for leaks. Applying soapy water to the hoses will easily and safely reveal any leaks.
- All propane cylinders manufactured after April 2002 must have overfill protection devices (OPD). OPDs shut off the flow of propane before capacity is reached. OPDs are easily identified by their triangle-shaped hand wheel.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and have the grill repaired by a professional, if necessary.
- Remember to keep your grill clean! Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can dangle onto grill and catch fire.
- **REMEMBER!** Propane and charcoal BBQ grills must only be used outdoors. If used indoors, or in any enclosed spaces, such as tents, they pose both a fire hazard and the risk of exposing occupants to toxic gases and potential asphyxiation.

***"Together We Can Save Lives And Prevent Injuries"***

