



## Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer

# Florida Consumer E-Newsletter, July 2014

## Propane Safety

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Grilling is an American tradition and summertime staple. There is nothing more enjoyable than a summer cookout with friends and family. Backyard chefs throughout the state are firing up their grills and mixing their favorite marinades. Even though most cookouts go off without a hitch, accidents can and do happen. According to the National Fire Protection Association, gas grills are responsible for 7,200 home fires every year.

*The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services advises consumers to follow these simple tips for safe grilling.*

### Propane Grill Do's



**Most accidents can be avoided by keeping grills properly maintained. If a gas grill that is more than 10 years old, consider replacing it with a grill that has new and important safety features.**

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and keep written materials and manuals in a safe, accessible place.
- Clean the grill regularly. Grease and fat buildup is a major source of flare ups and accidental fires.
- Check the gas tank hose (at a minimum annually) for leaks before using. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.
- Make sure the gas grill is shut off and cooled off before covering it after use.
- Always store propane tanks outside, in an upright position, and in areas where temperatures won't exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit.

- When filling or exchanging a cylinder, have the supplier check for dents, damage, rust or leaks.

## **Propane Grill Don'ts**

- Do not smoke while handling a propane cylinder. Propane is highly flammable.
- Do not leave your grill unattended.
- Do not store a spare LP cylinder on or near a grill.
- Do not use matches or lighters to check for leaks.
- Do not use, store or transport a cylinder where it will be exposed to high temperatures.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is responsible for safety regulations for liquefied petroleum gas where it is stored, distributed, transported and used. For additional information, visit [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) or by calling 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or 1-800-FL-AYUDA (352-9832) en Español.