



# EHS Bulletin

May 2019

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## Grilling Safety

It happens every year, the weather gets warmer, more people use outdoor grills and incidents of grill-related fires increases. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), each year, outdoor grilling causes an average of 8,900 home fires.

Regardless of the type of grill, here are 9 safety tips that will keep your family and homes safe during barbecuing season:

- 1. Grill outside and away from any structures:** Charcoal and gas grills are designed for outdoor use only. However, NFPA reports that more than 27% of home fires started by outdoor grills began in a courtyard, terrace or patio, and 29% started on an exterior balcony or open porch. Make sure the grill is placed far enough away from other objects so the heat from the grill will not reach the nearby structures. On campus grills must be 20 feet away from all buildings and combustible materials.
- 2. Make sure the grill is stable:** Only set grill on a flat, non-combustible surface and make sure the grill cannot be tipped over. Consider using a grill pad or splatter mat underneath the grill to protect the deck or patio.
- 3. Keep the grill clean:** Remove grease or fat buildup from the grill surface using a grill brush and clean the tray below the grill regularly to prevent grease and food residue from building up, as this could cause a fire. If using a charcoal grill, allow the coals to completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.
- 4. Check for propane leaks on gas grills:** Before the season's first barbecue, check the gas tank hose and tank connection for leaks by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose and then turning on the gas. If there is a propane leak, the solution will bubble. Other signs of a propane leak include the smell of gas near the barbecue or a flame that will not light.
- 5. If the flame goes out, wait to relight:** If using a gas grill and the flame goes out, turn the grill and the gas off, and then wait at least five minutes to relight it.
- 6. Take care around the grill:** Never leave a lit grill unattended. Do not allow kids or pets to play near the grill. Never try to move a lit or hot grill, and remember the grill will stay hot for at least an hour after use.
- 7. Be careful with charcoal starter fluid:** If using a charcoal grill, only use charcoal starter fluid. If the fire starts to go out, do not add any starter fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Consider using a charcoal chimney starter, which uses newspaper to start the fire instead of starter fluid.
- 8. Wear the right clothing:** Clothing can easily catch fire, so be sure shirttails, sleeves or apron strings do not dangle over the grill.
- 9. Be ready to put out a fire:** Have baking soda on hand to control a grease fire and a fire extinguisher nearby for other fires. If an extinguisher is not available, keep a bucket of sand next to the grill. Never use water to put out grease fires. Extinguishers are required for all campus events.

Grilling season can be fun and enjoyable and by following these safety tips, this year's grilling season can be incident free.

When grilling on campus, a Grilling Permit Application is required no later than 2 business days prior to the event. The form can be found here: <https://ehs.okstate.edu/ehs-forms.html>.

# Stormwater Runoff Is One of the Leading Causes of Water Pollution

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program requires permits for discharges from construction activities that disturb one or more acres as well as discharges from smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan. Construction activities can result in the discharge of significant amounts of sediment and other pollutants, if controls and good housekeeping practices are not followed. The best way to stop erosion is to keep the soil in place through vegetation, erosion control blankets, or other methods that prevent the soil from becoming dislodged during rain events.

Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops and does not soak into the ground. The runoff picks up pollutants like animal and human waste, chemicals, oils, and dirt/sediment that can all end up in waterways--and potentially in our sources of drinking water. To protect these resources, construction companies often use stormwater controls referred to as best management practices (BMPs).

BMPs can be divided into two categories; structural and non-structural:

Structural BMPs include

- Silt fences
- Sedimentation ponds
- Erosion control blankets
- Temporary or permanent seeding

Non-structural BMPs include

- Picking up trash and debris
- Sweeping up nearby sidewalks and streets
- Maintaining equipment
- Training site staff on erosion and sediment control practices

Active construction sites should have a plan in place to inspect and maintain onsite erosion and sediment controls every 14 days or after each major rain event. A self-inspection should consist of an examination of the following:

- Proper installation of the silt fence
- Any damage or destruction to a control caused by vehicles, equipment, or personnel, a storm event, or other event
- Mud or sediment deposits found downslope from controls
- Sediment tracked out onto paved area by vehicles leaving construction site(s)
- Noticeable erosion at discharge outlets or at adjacent streambanks or channels
- Erosion of the site's sloped areas
- Erosion control no longer working due to a lack of maintenance

EHS partners with the City of Stillwater to conduct spot inspections to ensure compliance with standards. Contractors are required to perform self-inspection and maintenance to prevent pollution, fulfill permit requirements and avoid any fines associated with noncompliance.

## Current Events

### *Bloodborne Pathogen Training*

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 9-10 am or 2-3 pm  
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS  
Required annually for members under OSHA's standard.  
Registration: Email name to [chemicalsafety@okstate.edu](mailto:chemicalsafety@okstate.edu)

### *Respiratory Protection*

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 8:30-9:30 am  
FM North Building, Room 101c  
Required annually for members who wear respiratory protection.  
Registration: Email name to [ohsp@okstate.edu](mailto:ohsp@okstate.edu)

### *Fire Safety w/ Hands-on Extinguisher Training*

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, 9:00-10:00 am  
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS  
Come join us for fire safety education featuring the BullsEye laser training device.  
Registration: Email name to [ohsp@okstate.edu](mailto:ohsp@okstate.edu)

### *Monthly Employee Training*

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 9:30-11:30 am  
EHS Conference Room, 003 UHS  
Topics: Hazcom; Fire Safety; Slips, Trips, and Falls; Office Safety; and Back Safety  
Registration: Email name to [ohsp@okstate.edu](mailto:ohsp@okstate.edu)