

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Propane)

Liquefied **P**etroleum **G**as (LPG) when used to fire a home barbecue, is contained under pressure in a steel cylinder. The contents of an LPG cylinder, vaporized and in a confined area, has the explosive force of several sticks of dynamite. Therefore, the wise user of LPG will be aware of the dangers involved and the precautions that must be taken to avoid accidents.

No LPG burner should ever be ignited until the following steps are taken:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions and be sure you thoroughly understand them.
- Do not transport LPG cylinders in the trunk of a passenger vehicle. A filled cylinder should always be transported in an upright position on the floor of a vehicle with all windows open. Be sure to remove the cylinder from the vehicle as soon as possible.

- Never leave a cylinder in a parked vehicle. Use the proper size wrench to make sure that all connections are tight. Remember: fittings on flammable gas cylinders have left-hand threads, requiring effort in a counterclockwise direction to tighten. To make sure the connections are tight, apply a soapy solution to detect leaks. If any bubbles are produced the connections must be tightened further.
- Never store or use any LPG cylinder-attached to the barbecue or spares-inside any part of a structure, including porches and balconies, per Delaware Law.
- Store cylinders, including those attached to barbecues, outdoors in a shaded, cool area out of direct sunlight.
- Make sure that grease is not allowed to drip on the hose or cylinders.
- Never let children use a gas-fired barbecue.
- Never use a gas-fired barbecue inside any structure.

Charcoal

Although charcoal may sound less dangerous than LP gas, it is just as necessary to take precautions in using charcoal burners

- Never use charcoal barbecues in an enclosed space. Combustion of charcoal emits carbon monoxide gas, which, even in small quantities, can cause injury or death.
- Once a fire has been started, never add starter fluid. Fire may follow the stream of fluid back to the container, causing an explosion and scattering flaming liquid.
- Use great caution in disposing of the ashes. Ashes may contain live coals, which can start a fire if not disposed of properly. The safest method is to wet ashes thoroughly with water before emptying the barbecue.

Follow these precautions and enjoy outdoor eating in health, happiness and good weather!

REMEMBER:

It is illegal in Delaware to use outdoor cooking equipment inside...this includes in a garage or on a porch or balcony!

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Barbecue Safety in Delaware

Wilmington Fire Department



Fire Marshal's Office

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