

## BARBECUE WITH CARE

“It’s summertime and the living is easy.” The days are getting longer, the weather’s great - a perfect time to invite friends over for a barbecue.

Every year, the precious summer months are marred by needless accidents caused by the careless use of barbecues. **Whitby Fire and Emergency Services** wants you to have an injury free, fire safe summer, so here are some important tips to follow:

- Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions carefully when assembling a new barbecue. Use the type and size of cylinder recommended by the manufacturer. If you have problems with assembly, call a qualified propane service person.
- If you have not used your barbecue recently, make sure that the burner holes (ports) and the tube connecting to the burners are clear of rust and debris. The fitting that connects the barbecue to the cylinder could have a rubber “O” ring near the end. Check the ring every time you connect the cylinder. Replace the ring if it is cracked or out of shape.
- Test all connections for leaks. With the tank connected, open the tank valve and generously spread a soapy solution on all propane fittings, including the cylinder valve on the hose. If bubbles appear and become larger or increase in number, there is a leak. NEVER check for a leak using an open flame.
- Barbecues must be placed at least three metres (ten feet) from windows or combustible surfaces.
- When lighting your gas barbecue, open the lid and have the match or lighter already burning before you turn on the propane.
- When you are finished barbecuing, turn off the propane cylinder valve and then the barbecue burners.
- Always use and store your gas barbecue and any propane cylinders outdoors. It is unlawful to take a propane cylinder which contains, or has contained propane, indoors. Never barbecue on an apartment balcony.
- Transport propane cylinders in an upright position with the valve plugs in place, ensuring good ventilation. The best way to transport a cylinder is to place it inside a stable container in the trunk of your vehicle. The trunk lid should be secured with a device which will allow it to remain partially open.
- All propane cylinders are required to be inspected every 10 years from the date of manufacture. It is unlawful to fill a cylinder that is overdue for inspection.