

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **City of Beloit Fire Department Urges Safety While Grilling Out**

**May 29, 2019** - It's barbecue season! Whether you're looking for the perfect brat or marinated chicken, we want to see all of Beloit stay safe while grilling out.

The City of Beloit ordinance allows for cooking in grills and other similar appliances as long as it's done between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., for no longer than four hours, and with cooking fuel such as wood (not brush, twigs or tree branches less than four inches in diameter, green tree branches, or wet, treated or painted wood), charcoal, gas or electricity. If you're grilling out or using an outdoor cooking fire at a multi-family dwelling, such as an apartment complex, you cannot grill on a balcony or underneath a balcony, according to the fire code. The grill or cooking fire must be attended to at all times by a responsible, competent individual and an extinguishing agent, such as a hose, should be nearby in case of a fire.

If you're thinking about grilling up burgers and brats, check out these grilling safety tips from the National Fire Prevention Association before you fire up the grill:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.
- Charcoal Grills: Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- Charcoal Grills: If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Charcoal Grills: Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- Charcoal Grills: There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- Charcoal Grills: When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
- Propane Grills: Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year. Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.

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- Propane Grills: If your grill has a gas leak, by smell or the soapy bubble test, and there is no flame, turn off both the gas tank and the grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- Propane Grills: If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill. If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before re-lighting it.

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