

A Safe Grilling Season

Pre-reading

Questions: What do you know about grills or grilling food? What more would you like to know?

Definitions: Fume – a smoke, vapor, or odor that is unpleasant or unhealthy

Liquid petroleum – often referred to as LP

Brittle – hard and dry; easily broken

Detect – to discover; to find out about something



Reading

15 Each year thousands of people pull out their grills from storage in celebration of warmer
30 temperatures. Grilling season also means grilling injuries. It is important to think about safety as
30 you are preparing to use a charcoal or gas grill.

40 The safety labels on charcoal bags are helpful to review. They explain the risks that are
56 involved in using charcoal. One of the biggest risks is that burning charcoal indoors can kill you.
73 It gives off a gas called carbon monoxide. The gas is very dangerous. You can't see it, and you
92 can't smell it. Charcoal should never be burned inside a home, a vehicle or a tent. It should
110 always be used outside in the open air.

118 After cooking, do not bring a warm charcoal grill into a camper. It takes a long time to
136 completely burn out. Even with the grill lid on, fumes can quickly fill the indoor air. A charcoal
154 grill should be emptied before storing it in a camper.

164 Before firing up a gas grill, think about safety. Liquid petroleum (LP) gas is **flammable**.
179 Many accidents occur after the grill has been unused over a period of time, or after a grill's gas
198 container has been refilled and reattached.

204 It is best to do a safety check each time a gas grill is used. Check the grill's hoses for
224 cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Also, make sure they are as far away from the hot surface as
242 possible. Keep hoses away from places where grease could drip on them.

254 Check for leaks whenever you reconnect the grill to the LP-gas container, or if you smell
270 gas. To check for leaks, open the gas supply valve fully and apply a soapy solution (one part
288 water, one part liquid detergent) with a brush at the connection points. If bubbles appear, there is a
306 leak. Turn off the gas and tighten the connection. If a leak is detected, don't attempt to light the
325 grill until the leak has been stopped. If you are using the grill, turn off the gas.

342 As is the case with a charcoal grill, a gas grill should never be used indoors. Grills should
360 not be used in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or under a surface that will burn.

376 Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Level 5.5

Understanding

1. What are the two types of grills? _____

2. How are they similar and how are they different? _____

3. What does the word **flammable** mean? _____

4. What kind of gas is produced from burning charcoal? _____

5. What do you know about that gas? (List three of its properties.) _____

6. When is grilling season? _____

7. How can leaks be detected in a gas grill? _____

Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: Write about your positive or negative grilling experiences.
