



# MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MIKE CHANEY  
State Fire Marshal

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Donna Cromeans

601-359-3569

Donna.Cromeans@mid.ms.gov

**For Immediate Release**

**May 24, 2018**

## **State Fire Marshal Says Grilling Fire Safety a Must for Rainy Memorial Day Cookouts**

JACKSON- Memorial Day weekend usually kicks off the grilling season for many Mississippi families. Commissioner of Insurance and State Fire Marshal Mike Chaney urges everyone dusting off the grill this weekend to practice grilling fire safety. The improper or careless use of a grill, of any type, can be a threat to your home, your friends, and your family. Particular care needs to be taken this weekend with a wet and soggy forecast for the state due to tropical activity in the Gulf.

“The most dangerous time in using any grill is when you ignite it, particularly if this is the first time you’re using it this season. For the safest family cookout this Memorial Day weekend, take the extra time you need to clean and prepare your grill properly,” Chaney said.

He also added, “If you’re grilling in inclement weather, do not bring your grill inside your garage or covered area, this increases your risk of a fire.”

For a safe family cookout this weekend, the Mississippi State Fire Marshal’s Office recommends these grilling safety tips:

- 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.
- Do not use a grill under a carport or garage.
- Keep children and pets 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.

### **Charcoal grills**

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Do not use gasoline.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- 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.
- If your grill has a gas leak, and there is no flame, turn off the gas tank and 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.
- Make sure the lid to the grill is open before lighting grill.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

More fire safety tips are available on the State Fire Marshal page of the MID website, [www.mid.ms.gov](http://www.mid.ms.gov), the State Fire Marshal Facebook page, and @MSInsuranceDept and @MSFireSafe on Twitter.

###