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Start Up the Grill

It happens every year. The weather gets warmer, more people use outdoor grills – and incidents of grill-caused fires go up.

Regardless of the type of grill you own, here are 7 BBQ safety tips that will keep you and your home safe for barbecuing season:

1. Grill outside and away from any structures

Charcoal and gas grills are designed for outdoor use only. However, NFPA reports that more than one-quarter (27%) of home fires started by outdoor grills began in a courtyard, terrace or patio, and 29% started on an exterior balcony or open porch. Pay attention to overhanging tree branches when you set up your grill.

2. Make sure your grill is stable

Only set up your grill on a flat surface and make sure the grill can't be tipped over. Consider using a grill pad or splatter mat underneath your grill to protect your deck or patio.

3. Keep your grill clean

Remove grease or fat buildup from both the grill and the tray below the grill. If you are using a charcoal grill, allow the coals to completely cool off before disposing of them in a metal container.

4. Check for propane leaks on your gas grill

Before the season's first barbecue, check the gas tank hose for leaks by applying a light soap and water solution to the hose and then turning on the gas. If there is a propane leak, the solution will bubble. Other signs of a propane leak include the smell of gas near the barbecue or a flame that won't light.

5. Take care around the grill

Never leave a lit grill unattended. Don't allow kids or pets to play near the grill. Never try to move a lit or hot grill, and remember the grill will stay hot for at least an hour after use.



6. Be careful with charcoal starter fluid

If you use a charcoal grill, only use charcoal starter fluid. If the fire starts to go out, don't add any starter fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Consider using a charcoal chimney starter, which uses newspaper to start the fire instead of starter fluid.

7. Be ready to put out the fire

Have baking soda on hand to control a grease fire and a fire extinguisher nearby for other fires. If you don't have a fire extinguisher, keep a bucket of sand next to the grill. Never use water to put out grease fire.



George Floyd Protests Put Truckers in Dangerous Situations



Truck drivers have been put in some terrible predicaments as protests and sometimes-violent riots have spread across the country in recent days. There have been reports of protesters looting trucks caught in the protests, and bricks and other items being thrown at trucks as demonstrators protest police brutality in the wake of the May 25 death of African-American George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

Two major incidents, one in St. Louis and one in Minneapolis, had drivers clearly fearing for their lives.

In the wee hours of Saturday morning in St. Louis, a FedEx truck had to detour off Interstate 70, which was blocked by protesters.

But the driver had to stop when his route was blocked by more protesters. As the truck stopped, protesters surrounded the truck and began banging and climbing up on the passenger side as others climbed between the trailers to take packages out of the trailer. The driver told police two people on the passenger side steps pointed guns at the driver, but a witness said some of those banging on the truck were trying to let the driver know there was a man trapped between the two trailers. Fearing for his safety, the driver sounded his horn and drove away, dragging the trapped protester, who died at the hospital, according to published reports.

A spokesperson from FedEx released the following statement regarding the incident: “We are deeply saddened to learn of a tragic situation involving a demonstrator in St. Louis and one of our vehicles. We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of the individual involved. There is no higher priority for FedEx than safety, and we are cooperating fully with the investigating authorities at this time.”

The other video is in Minneapolis, where a Kenan Advantage tanker rig, horn blaring, scattered a group of protesters who were blocking the interstate on I-35W. Reports indicate that no protesters were hit by the truck, but the crowd swarmed the rig, pulled the driver out and attacked him. Although the footage is scary, the driver later said that the majority of the crowd was actually protecting him.

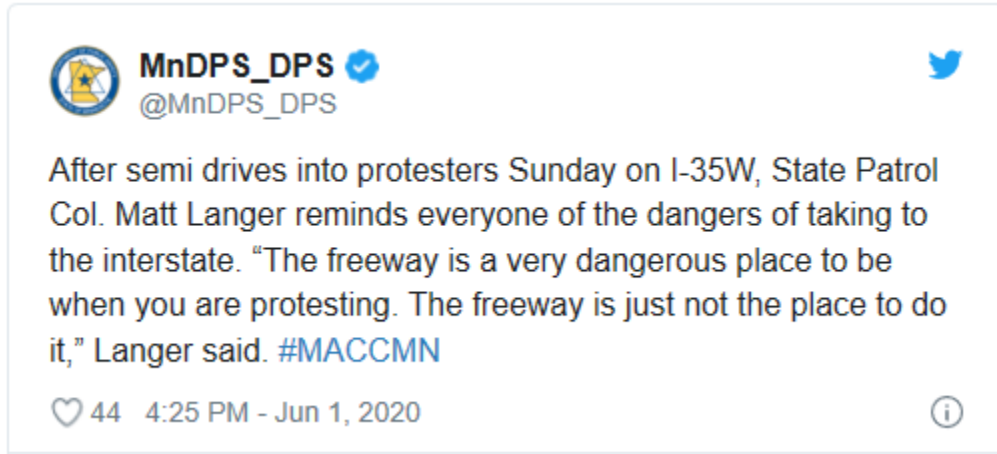
The driver was arrested on a probable cause of assault, but later investigation appears to indicate his actions were not intentional.

Minnesota Department of Safety Commissioner John Harrington said, “You winced because you imagined you would see bodies under the tires of that truck. When you didn’t see that, it was frankly possibly a miracle.”

Harrington also said the driver likely “saw the crowd and he panicked.” He slammed on his brakes after seeing a woman on a bicycle fall down. “We don’t have any information that makes this seem like this was an intentional act,” he added.

Gov. Tim Walz said the driver was apparently confused and didn’t mean to injure anyone. Traffic cameras show the driver was already on the freeway before it was closed.

The incident prompted the Minnesota DPS on Monday to tweet about the dangers of protesting on interstates.



In response to these incidents, many drivers recalled the incident of Reginald Denny nearly 30 years ago, a construction truck driver pulled from his truck during the LA Riots in 1992 and beaten nearly to death.

According to published reports, one message reportedly sent to drivers cautions them that if they find themselves in protest areas “if you somehow are stopped by a crowd, stay in the truck and keep moving slowly. Call 911 for help. You have every right to assume people assaulting you in your vehicle present a danger.”

But one manifesto making the rounds on Facebook is just as disturbing in its way as these incidents are.

“Dear America...” it starts out. “The American trucker will not be held hostage, threatened, robbed, or killed. We will not be a victim. We will not be this generation's version of Reginald Denny.... We will defend ourselves everytime, [sic] up to and including, using our 80,000 lb. [sic] trucks and it's [sic] 1,800 foot-pounds of torque to run you over.”

Drivers’ frustration and fear of being caught in one of these situations is understandable – but threatening to run protesters over is unacceptable.

Clay Cormier
DOT Safety Manager

Cell Phone Usage on the Jobsite



According to a recent study, the average person checks their cellphone 100 times a day. While there is a time and a place for cellphones, using it at the job site can be extremely dangerous.

If you are distracted for just a second while operating a power tool, working on a roof or driving a forklift, you can injure yourself or a co-worker. **You can also face civil or criminal liability for damages** you cause by operating a motorized vehicle while using a cellphone.

It isn't only operators of machinery who need to be mindful of the dangers of cellphone use on the job site. **Simply looking down at your cellphone and not paying attention to your surroundings could put your life in danger.**

Cellphone Safety Tips When On-site

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) prohibits use by operators of cranes and similar equipment. **Most organizations prohibit any kind of use on the job site—not just for crane operators. It is your responsibility to know how your company's rules apply to you and follow them accordingly.**

If you struggle with the temptation to check your phone while working on a job site, consider the following safety tips:

- Get in the habit of sending and receiving text messages before or after your shift, or during one of your breaks.
- Remind family and friends that you may not be able to respond to their messages right away. Provide them with your workplace contact information in case of emergencies.
- Turn off push notifications so you're not distracted by any apps.
- Don't carry your cellphone on you if the temptation to check it is too much. Instead, leave it in a safe place where it won't distract you from your job.
- **Follow your workplace policy for use at work and on the job site. Be aware of any cellphone-free zones.**

Besides creating enormous safety risks, employees who are texting at work are not doing what they are getting paid to do. For this reason, these workers may be subject to disciplinary action.

GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUD ~~ THE APPLE CLOUD ~~ WAIT!

**Lauren Vincent
Industrial Safety Manager**



Birthdays



June Birthdays

Wilmar Marin- 6/7

Jeromie McCann- 6/16

Nathan Fritzenschaft- 6/22

Tim Leach- 6/26

Fred Hicks- 6/29

Work Anniversaries

June Work Anniversaries

Kesler Fretty- 1 year

Clean DOT Inspections

No Clean DOT Inspections received in May.

What did you learn?

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. List 2 barbeque safety tips
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

2. If you are grilling you should have _____ on hand to control a grease fire and a fire extinguisher nearby for other fires.
 - a. Sugar
 - b. Salt
 - c. Baking Powder
 - d. Baking Soda

3. If you somehow are stopped by a crowd while operating a tractor trailer, stay in the truck and keep moving slowly. Call _____ for help.
 - a. 911
 - b. Buddy
 - c. Shaun Fontenot
 - d. Kevin Simms

4. Besides creating enormous safety risks, employees who are texting at work are not _____.
_____.

If you return this portion completed to the Safety Department by June 30th, you will be entered into a drawing for 2-\$25.00 gift cards. Good Luck!