



Most people don't think about the danger of a fire damaging their home during the summer months. What causes these fires and is there a way to protect your home to reduce the risk? Yes, you can take some simple measures to ensure that your home will stay safe all summer long! Here are the different types of fires and how you can prevent them.

1. Grill Fires – per the NFPA, gas grills cause approximately 8,900 fires per year, 3,900 structure fires and 4,900 “outdoor” fires (they could involve structures that are not the primary residence, like a garage or shed). Most of these fires happen between 5 and 8 pm and the majority are caused by a broken or damaged gas line. July is the most active month for grill fires, followed by June, May, and August.

Prevention tips:

- Never put a hot grill back in the garage or next to a structure while it is still even warm! The potential for it being hot enough to start the structure on fire is a real concern and happens more often than you would think.
- Always check your equipment thoroughly before each use. Check the hoses for cracks, breaks, or kinks, check the valves to ensure properly working and makes sure to check all connections to make sure they are tight and secure.
- When lighting the grill, make sure you have the proper clearances all around, that you are not too close to a low hanging tree limb, under an overhang or too close to a flammable structure. You want to be sure if there is a flame flare up that nothing else could catch on fire.
- Make sure your grill is clean! Allowing build up

to form on the grill provides more material to burn. Clogged gas line holes cause pressure to build up and flames to be larger than expected. Take the time prior to using to make sure it is clean.

- Make sure you have a properly rated fire extinguisher on hand, just in case!
2. Fireworks – according to the NFPA fireworks cause an estimated 19,500 fire per year. Of these more than half (59%) are brush, grass or forest fires, and 9% are structure fires, but these fires account for almost all of the annual fireworks fire deaths (approximately 5 per year). More than one quarter of the fires reported annually are reported on July 4 (about 28%). Many of the fireworks related injuries and damage result from legal fireworks.

Prevention tips:

- When using fireworks be sure to be in an open area, not near any buildings or structures that could start on fire if a firework landed on it.
- Wet grass before the show so if there are any mishaps (firework tips over and shoots flame balls at the ground) the grass will not burn.
- Make sure that any base that you are using to shoot the fireworks from is stable and secure so that it does not tip over and shoot the fireworks in a direction you didn't want them to go, like into the crowd or on your roof.
- Be sure to keep a fire extinguisher on hand always!

3. Fire Pits – the statistics for fire pits are lumped into the grill statistics so there is not separate information about how many cause structure fires each year, but they do and should be addressed.

Prevention tips:

- Be sure that your pit is properly dug and lined so burning materials will stay inside the pit.
- If it is a portable pit be sure it is far enough from any structures and that it is not below low hanging tree branches so that there is no chance of the fire leaving the pit.
- Be sure that your starting material will not blow away while flaming. So many people use rolled newspaper to start their fire, while it's a great way to start a fire there is a huge chance that a chunk of that flaming paper will fly out of the pit and float through the air landing on a structure or dry grass starting a fire.
- Always use dry wood, wet or damp wood will only create a ton of smoke and the potential to pull hot burning wood out of the pit to stop the smoke, while the piece that was pulled is over starting a fire behind your back!
- Again, always a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher on hand!

We hope that you and your family have a safe and enjoyable summer! Since we will be spending a lot more time at home with our families, reminders for summer safety is a top priority. If you, family, or friends should need help with a damaged property this summer call our office at 262-293-2646 for immediate assistance. We provide 24-hour emergency response 7 days a week, 365 days a year! **One call and it's Accent to the Rescue!**