



Klamath County Fire District No. 1

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PRESS RELEASE

July 7, 2008

For Immediate Release

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Outdoor Cooking Fire Safety Tips

Klamath County Fire District No. 1 (KCFD1) and the State Fire Marshal offer outdoor cooking fire safety tips.

Now that summer is finally here; please remember to be fire safe during summer barbeques and cook-outs. From 2003 through 2007, there were 214 fires in Oregon that were attributed to outdoor cooking. These fires caused more than \$2.2 million in property loss.

Please follow a few basic fire safety tips that will help keep your outdoor cooking activities both fun and safe. Here are some simple steps everyone can take to be fire safe when cooking outdoors.

- **Only** use propane and charcoal grills outdoors. If they're used indoors or in any enclosed space in addition to being a fire hazard, they expose occupants to poisonous carbon monoxide.
- Place the grill away from exterior wall siding and deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- Always keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of water handy to extinguish the fire with if it gets out-of-control.
- Place the grill a safe distance from play areas and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill.
- If you use charcoal lighter fluid, **never** add it to a lit fire.

To properly dispose of coals and ashes, douse them with water and stir them until they are cool to the touch. **Never** put coals or ashes in plastic, paper or wooden containers unless they have been thoroughly soaked with water.

Last spring, ashes that were not properly disposed of resulted in a fire that destroyed the Klamath Falls home of an elderly retired couple leaving them homeless. The home was valued at approximately \$300,000. On June 28, a fire in Vancouver was caused by ashes placed in a paper bag and stored on a wood deck. The fire destroyed a 24-unit apartment complex and left 50 people homeless.

For more fire safety information please visit our web site at www.kcf1.com.