



**Shropshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service

# BARBECUE SAFETY



**Enjoy your barbecue but remember hot coals can be dangerous. It's easy to be distracted if you are busy or have friends or family around. Stay safe and follow our top tips.**

## Stay Safe and Follow these tips

- **Never leave the BBQ unattended**
- **Ensure the BBQ is on a flat site, well away from a shed, trees or shrubs**
- **Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area**
- **Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby for emergencies**
- **Ensure the BBQ is cool before attempting to move it**

## Charcoal Barbecues

- **Use enough charcoal to cover the base to a depth of about 50mm (2in)**
- **Only use recognised fire lighters or starter fuel and only on cold coals - use the minimum necessary and never use petrol.**
- **Never put hot ashes straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin - they could melt the plastic and cause a fire.**

## Gas Barbecues

- **Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder**
- **Change cylinders outdoors**
- **If you suspect a leak to the cylinder or pipe work, brush soapy water around the joints and watch for bubbles - tighten but don't over-tighten**
- **After cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before turning off at the controls to use up residual gas in the pipe work**
- **Be carbon monoxide aware**
- **Never use fuel-burning equipment (as listed below) inside a tent.**
- **Using these indoors can cause Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning as they give off fumes for long periods - levels high enough to result in CO poisoning.**
- **To avoid hazardous CO exposures, fuel-burning equipment should never be used inside a tent, camper, or other enclosed shelter.**

## Disposable Barbecues

**If you do use a disposable barbecue:**

- **It is imperative that they are placed on an even surface on either bricks or paving slabs Place disposable BBQs well away from the house, shed or fences.**
- **Do not use disposable barbecues near or on public benches.**
- **If you're using a disposable BBQ ensure it has cooled before putting it in the bin.**
- **To avoid starting a fire you should allow it to cool for several hours and then consider pouring water over it to make sure it's out.**

