

## **Barbeque and Campfire Safety**

*Information courtesy of the Saint Paul Fire Department*

### **Barbeque Safety**

- Although it is legal to barbeque on a deck or balcony in the City of Saint Paul, we recommend that residents barbeque at least 10 feet away from your home or apartment. We urge landlords to prohibit barbecuing on balconies in their leases. Although Saint Paul has not experienced many barbeque balcony fires, they can be very damaging when they happen.
- When using a propane grille, always check the connections for leaks before turning it on.
- **Never use gasoline to light a charcoal grille**; use charcoal lighter fluid but be careful not to add fluid to an already lit fire because it can flashback and burn you. The safest way to light your charcoal grille is with an electric charcoal starter.
- Never barbeque in an enclosed area. Deadly carbon monoxide can be produced.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a barbeque.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Always supervise children around outdoor grilles.
- Dispose of hot coals properly – douse them with plenty of water and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper, or wooden containers. **The improper disposal of hot coals is the most frequent cause of barbeque-related fires in Saint Paul.**

### **Campfire Safety**

- Campfires - **or Recreational Fires** - are legal in the City of Saint Paul, without a permit, as long as you follow these requirements. Open burning for disposal requires a permit from the Department of Safety and Inspections at 651-266-8989.
- Recreational fires cannot be more than 3 feet wide and 2 feet high and you can burn only sawn wood; they cannot be used for disposal of construction debris or other such materials.
- Recreational fires on the ground can not be less than 25 feet from a building or combustibles. If the fire is in an approved container, such as a barbeque grille or an outdoor fireplace, the fire can't be less than 15 feet from a building or combustible materials.
- **Always be in attendance at any outdoor fire** and have the means to extinguish the fire if necessary.
- Wind speed should not be more that 10 miles per hour. If the smoke is creating nuisance to others, the fire must be put out. **Smoke is the leading cause of complaints about recreational fires in Saint Paul.**

Saint Paul Fire Marshal Steve Zaccard says, "Every year we look forward to summer fun, like barbecuing and campfires." Zaccard warns: "These can be fun activities, but they can also become deadly if we're even slightly careless." For more information about fire safety, go to the National Fire Protection Association's website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). Be careful; be safe and help keep the City of Saint Paul the Most Livable City in America.

**Remember Safety is No Accident!**