



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### BBQ - Don't Get Burned



Fourth of July - motherhood, apple pie, and baseball. Okay, it's time to barbecue our favorite steaks, burgers, chicken, shish kebabs and hotdogs. Smell that aroma of charcoal on the grill! Meat sizzling over the glowing coals!

It never fails, some inspired backyard chef will get the idea they can speed up the fire preparation by dousing an already - burning pile of briquettes with "just one more" squirt of charcoal lighter fluid. If their fast, they might even get back before the fire flares up in their direction. If their not, they might find themselves minus their eyebrows - or worse.

Never, ever pour charcoal lighter fluid on burning coals or an open flame to get the fire burning more quickly! Once the coals start turning white, they are ignited. That extra drenching with lighter fluid is just too dangerous.

Along with charcoal grills, many people now own gas grills. Some gas grills come equipped with a propane tank. Tanks can be filled at filling stations, any propane gas company, and RV dealerships. States now require a safety cap to be installed on gas grill propane tanks when transported. Without the safety cap, you can no longer have your tank refilled. One of the stories behind the safety cap was a mother who had a propane tank filled and had it placed in the back seat of her car along with her small child. The child had somehow managed to open the valve filling the car with gas. At some point in time, the mother decided to light a cigarette, well - you can figure out what happened!

The point of this message is directed to those individuals who try to light the gas grill with a match. Most gas grills use a spark igniter to ignite the gas, but we know how well they sometimes work. After a while, the igniter stops working and we eventually have to go to the old standby, the match. The problem arises when we have problems getting the match to work. We close the lid on the grill, turn the gas knob on, then begin to strike the match against the side of the match box. After three unsuccessful attempts to get a match to work, one lights. We are proud of our success and place the match inside the grill not realizing that the gas has been on for 5 minutes...my how time flies! Of course, we wake up later in the hospital with no hair, no face, to find out you not only blew up your grill, but you burned down your house along with the whole neighborhood.

Be smart when cooking out. If you're in too big a hurry for your food, leave the barbecuing for those with patience and do your cooking in a microwave.

#### BBQ Tips:

- **Never move grill into the garage or other closed area because coals can build up lethal concentrations of carbon monoxide. Even with an open window, the fumes can kill you.**
- **Always have a fire extinguisher or a hose ready in case the fire gets out of control.**
- **When cleaning up, never trash ashes or briquettes in a cardboard carton or other combustible container - they could ignite**