News Release

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Municipalities remind of need for safety around pools and barbecues

Now that warm weather is here many of us are dusting off our barbecues to enjoy summer grilling. And while a barbecue with friends, neighbours and family is one of the great pleasures of the season, it’s important to make sure you’re keeping safety in mind.

Did you know that each year North Shore fire departments respond to approximately 20 barbecue-related incidents, including fires and personal injuries? Taking a few minutes before you barbecue to follow some important safety tips will help ensure you’re grilling safely.

Make sure your barbecue is in a well-ventilated location; most propane barbecues have a label on the back indicating the minimum clearance to combustibles (your home, fence, surrounding vegetation, etc.) required for safe operation.

Here are a few things to keep in mind once you’re ready to start barbecuing:
- always light a propane gas barbecue with the lid open;
- never leave a lit barbecue unattended;
- keep a fire extinguisher within reach;
- never leave children or pets unsupervised near a barbecue;
- use long handled tongs while grilling to ensure adequate distance between you and the grill;
- in case of fire call 911 and evacuate to a predetermined family meeting place;
- do not mix wood, charcoal briquettes, barbecue starter fluid or gasoline with your propane or natural gas barbecue.

It’s also important to get in the habit of cleaning your barbecue regularly, not only to ensure it’s in good working condition, but also to keep it from attracting bears and other wildlife. And, please remember that propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors.
A critical reminder about pool safety

As our thoughts turn to fun in the sun, we’d also like to remind you to stay safe when you’re enjoying backyard pools. In particular, children should never be left unattended in or near a pool.

Municipal bylaws require that all outdoor pools and uncovered spas/hot tubs must be enclosed with a non-climbable fence. Fence height requirements vary, so please check with your municipality for pool safety bylaws specific to your community. As well, all gates must be self-closing and self-latching. In lieu of a fence, spas and hot tubs may have a solid, lockable cover that prevents unauthorized access. It is the responsibility of property owners and occupants to ensure that all fences, gates and locking spa covers are maintained in good working order at all times and to recognize that they may need to be repaired, upgraded or replaced over time.

For more pool safety information and other important tips for you and your children please visit the Red Cross (redcross.ca) and Health Canada (hc-sc.gc.ca) websites and search “Swimming Pool Safety”. Thank you for ensuring that your pool remains a safe place to play!

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