

Safety isn't a slogan,  
it's a way of life.

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Compliments of Pathfinder, LLC



# Safety Doesn't Happen By Accident

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# Safety as a Mindset

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- No matter where you work or what you do, you can develop a safety mindset. Make safety part of your work routine by being:
  - Prepared. Be ready for anything. Know where emergency and routes are located, train for the work you do, always wear protective gear and take protective measures.
  - Disciplined. Follow the steps needed to get the job done safely; don't take shortcuts.
  - Proactive. Don't wait for an accident to happen. Check for hazards in your work area daily report them promptly and follow up to make sure problems are corrected.
  - Alert. Don't become distracted from the task at hand.
  - Responsible. Go beyond following all company safety standards and rules – wear protective gear, read the manuals, use machine guards, perform proper lockout/tagout procedures, clean up spills and obstacles in walkways and don't take chances.
  - Do what you can to keep yourself and others out of danger. You can reduce the risk of injuries both at work and at home.

*“Just because you always did it that way, doesn't make it right.”*

*--Navel Safety Center*

# Home Safety

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- When operating machinery at home (lawnmowers, snowblowers, saws, drills, etc.)
  - Make sure all safety devices are in place and operating.
  - Wear appropriate safety equipment (gloves, goggles).
  - Make sure the device is disconnected from a power source when trying to clean or repair.

# Home Safety

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- Application of Chemicals (cleaning fluids, pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.)
  - Always read the label before using.
  - If there are hazardous chemical or solvents to be applied, wear the appropriate protective clothing (gloves, goggles, masks, jackets, etc.) as specified on the label.
  - When spraying hazardous chemicals, do so in an open, well ventilated area.

# Tool Tips

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Tools are supposed to make life easier, but when used improperly and in an unsafe manner, they can lead to problems. Follow these 10 tips:

1. Choose the correct tools for the job (don't use your screwdriver as a hammer or a chisel).
2. Direct saw blades, knives or other sharp tools away from yourself, co-workers and aisle areas.
3. Carry sharp or pointed tools securely in a tool belt or box, never in your pocket.
4. Use a pneumatic tool only if you have received training and authorization to do so.
5. Don't carry tools up ladders. Use a hoist or rope.
6. Use guards for rotating or moving parts of power tools.
7. Ensure that power tools are properly grounded. Never use them in wet areas.
8. Turn off *and* unplug a power tool after use and *before* cleaning it, repairing it or changing accessories on it.
9. Never unplug or carry a power tool by its cord.
10. Always inspect the equipment before use and never use damaged tools.

*Whether you use a power or hand tool, remember to wear appropriate protective gear.*

# Step Up to Ladder Safety

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- Every year more than 164,000 serious unintentional injuries involving ladders occur. Read the manufacturer's instructions for maximum load rating, highest standing levels and other guidelines, then step up to safety:
  - Select the right ladder for the job. For example never use a metal ladder near power lines or electrical equipment. Proper length of a straight ladder is minimum of three feet extending over the roofline or working surface.
  - Take time to inspect the ladder for damage, loose parts or wet surfaces before use. Be sure all locks on extension ladders are properly engaged.
  - Exercise care. Don't push or pull anything sideways while on a ladder. The ladder could tip out from under you.
  - Place the ladder on a flat, level surface and not in front of an entry way or doorway.
  - Use three points of contact with the ladder (two feet/one hand or two hands/one foot) at all times. Face the ladder when climbing up or down.
  - Properly reposition the ladder for your work; don't overextend your reach.

# Gas Grill Safety Facts

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## Facts & Figures

- Gas and charcoal grills caused 900 structure fires and 3,500 outdoor fires for \$30MM loss.
- Gas grills have a higher fire risk than charcoal; leaks and breaks account for nearly half of these fires
- Half of all grill home structure fires begin on an exterior balcony or unenclosed porch.
- Each year, about 30 people are injured as a result of gas grill fires and explosions in the U.S.

# Gas Grill Safety Tips

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## Preparing the Grill

- Check for gas leaks. If detected, immediately turn off the gas and don't light the grill until fixed.
- Check the tubes that lead into the burner for any blockage from insects, spiders, or food grease. Use a pipe cleaner or wire to clear blockage and push it through to the main part of the burner.
- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes, and leaks. Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease. If you can't move the hoses, install a heat shield to protect them.
- Replace scratched or nicked connectors, which can eventually leak gas.
- Keep lighted cigarettes, matches, or open flames away from a leaking grill.
- Do not attempt to repair the tank valve or the appliance yourself. See an LP gas dealer or a qualified appliance repair person.

# Gas Grill Safety Tips *(Cont'd)*

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## Using the Grill

- Never use a grill indoors. Use the grill at least 10 feet away from your house or any building. Do not use the grill in a garage, breezeway, carport, porch, or under a surface that can catch fire.
- Keep all children and pets away from grill while in operation and until after use until grill is cooled.
- Keep a fire extinguisher accessible.
- Use proper utensils that will allow you to be a safe distance from grill while cooking.
- Do NOT wear loose clothing while cooking
- Always shut off valve to propane tanks when not in use.

# Gas Grill Safety Tips *(Cont'd)*

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## **If Your Grill Catches on Fire**

- If the fire is in the grill portion seems "out of control" simply turn off the burners.
- If the fire involves one of the hoses, and you can safely reach the propane tank valve, shut the tank valve off.
- If the fire involves the tank, leave it alone, evacuate the area and call the fire department (911)
- If there is any type of fire that threatens either personal safety or endangers property, call the fire department (911)

# Propane Bottle Safety

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- After filling or exchanging a cylinder, take it home immediately. Keep the vehicle ventilated and keep the cylinder valve closed and plugged or capped. Transport the cylinder in a vertical, secured position.
- Always store LP cylinder upright and in areas where temperatures won't exceed 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This includes storing spare cylinders under or near the grill. Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat causes the gas pressure to rise, which could open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.
- Never store a spare LP cylinder on, under, or near a grill or any other appliance.
- NEVER store an LP cylinder indoors.
- Do not smoke while handling the propane cylinder.
- Always check for gas leaks every time you disconnect and reconnect the regulator to the LP cylinder.
- Never attach or disconnect an LP cylinder when the grill is in operation or is hot.
- Never use an LP cylinder if it shows signs of dents, gouges, bulges, fire damage, corrosion, leakage, excessive rust or other forms of visual external damage
- Once the LP cylinder is connected, the grill must be kept outside in a well-ventilated space. When not in use, the LP cylinder valve must be turned to the OFF position (clockwise).
- Do not allow children to tamper or play with the cylinder or grill.

# Cooler Thoughts

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Incidents of food borne illness often spike during the hot summers. If you plan on having a picnic check out these cool(er) tips:

- **Tip #1:** Use an insulated cooler with sufficient ice or ice packs to keep food that requires refrigeration at 40°F or below. Just because you keep food in a cooler doesn't mean it stays at or below 40°F, so you need to replenish ice if it melts. Harmful bacteria multiply rapidly when they're in the temperature danger zone 40°F to 140°F.
- **Tip #2:** Use a separate cooler for drinks so the one containing perishable food won't be opened and closed constantly.
- **Tip #3:** Keep the cooler in the air-conditioned part of your car (not in the truck), and keep coolers in the shade while outdoors.
- **Tip #4:** A cooler chest can also be used to keep hot food hot by lining the cooler with a heavy towel for extra insulation.