



**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

# Barbecues and Fire Safety



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service provides home fire safety advice to keep you safe at home.


If you are concerned about your fire safety, or the fire safety of others, please visit our website below to complete our online assessment for personalised advice or to find out if you are eligible for a Home Fire Safety Assessment.


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**[manchesterfire.gov.uk](http://manchesterfire.gov.uk)**


**Cooking on a barbecue is great fun, but it can also be dangerous, especially if you become distracted by friends and family or you've been drinking alcohol.**

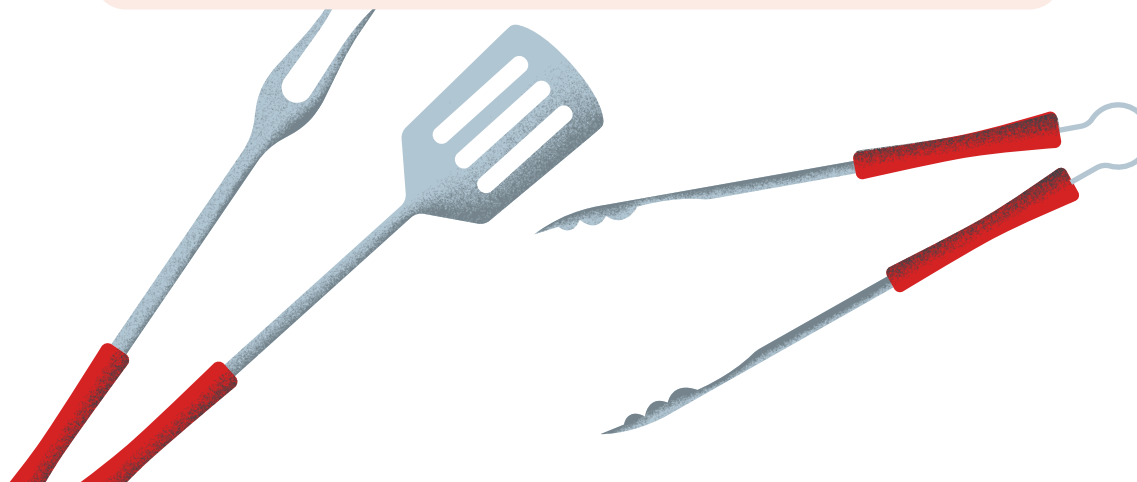
Follow our advice to stay safe when cooking on a barbecue.

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- ✓ Make sure that your barbecue is in good working order.
  - ✓ Ensure your barbecue is on a safe, flat surface and well away from buildings, fences, plants, garden furniture and any other items which could catch fire.
  - ✓ To light a charcoal barbecue only use barbecue lighter fuel or firelighters.
  - ✓ Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.
  - ✓ When you've finished cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before trying to move it.
  - ✓ Always extinguish the coals using water and empty ashes onto bare garden soil.
  - ✓ Keep children, garden games and pets well away from the cooking area.
  - ✓ Keep children away from matches, cigarettes and open fires.



Alcohol and/or drug use increases the risk of accidents occurring. Always take care when cooking.

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- ✗ Do not use barbecues on your balcony under any circumstances.
  - ✗ Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids to light a barbecue.
  - ✗ Once your barbecue is lit, never add more liquid fuel.
  - ✗ Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
  - ✗ Never light or take a barbecue indoors, or into a tent or other confined space, to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide is a deadly gas which can build up easily in an enclosed space.
  - ✗ Never put hot ashes or coals straight into a dustbin or wheelie bin.



## Gas barbecues



- ✓ Take special care when turning bottled gas barbecues on and off.
- ✓ Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- ✓ Change gas cylinders outdoors or in a well ventilated area.
- ✓ When you've finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the barbecue controls. This will stop any gas from leaking.

## Storing gas cylinders



- ✓ Store gas cylinders outside.
- ✓ Keep gas cylinders away from frost and direct sunlight.



- ✗ Never store gas cylinders under the stairs of your home – if you are upstairs this is your means of escape from a fire.
- ✗ Never store flammable materials like gas on a balcony.

## Wildfires

Wildfires are uncontrolled fires on grassy/moorland areas. Don't be the cause of wildfire mayhem!



- ✓ If you are barbecuing away from home, only ever choose areas with designated barbecue spaces, away from flammable surfaces, grass and moorland or other vegetation.



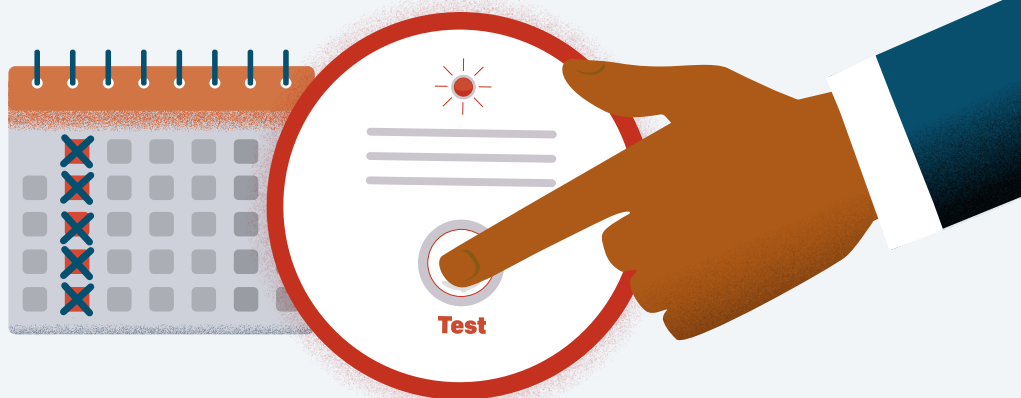
In many areas, it is now illegal to light barbecues or camp fires, and you can be prosecuted for doing so.



- ✗ It may seem like a good idea to take a barbecue to the park or countryside, but they can easily start fires and a fire in the open can quickly get out of control.
- ✗ Never light a barbecue on dry moorland or grass – it's a recipe for disaster.



**Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home and a heat alarm in your kitchen. Test your alarms weekly.**



**A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to:**



**Get out**



**Stay out**



**Call 999**

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

Saving lives, protecting communities, working together

**manchesterfire.gov.uk | @manchesterfire**    

If you do not have access to the internet, call **0800 555 815**