



Safety in Your Sizzle

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (Toronto, ON, April 20, 2007) – Spring is in the air — even if Mother Nature took her own sweet time. And that means it's time to warm things up. Whether planning a little culinary flair in the backyard or ready to fire it up at the cottage, your fork and flipper stand ready-at-hand. But before the cookout capers begin, ask yourself one grill-loving question — do I have the sizzle? Do I have what it takes to make my get-together a sweet and savoury success?

Well, sensible and safe barbecuing will make that happen.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) want to put a little safety in your sizzle with a season opener that includes a three-step safety check:

1. **Clean:** Use a pipe cleaner or wire to make sure the burner ports and the tube leading to the burner (called the “venturi tube”) are free of rust, dust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
2. **Check:** Examine the hose leading from the fuel supply to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
3. **Test:** Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to all fuel and hose connections. If bubbles appear, tighten the connections and/or replace the damaged parts and always re-test.

In addition to such safety checks, our gleeful grillers are reminded that barbecues are approved for outdoor use only. They emit carbon monoxide, an odourless, colourless poisonous gas that can lead to serious health affects even death.

Propane cylinders must also be safely stored and transported. Do not use or store your cylinders inside any structure. When transporting the cylinder always keep it upright and do not put the cylinder in a closed vehicle or in the trunk. It is preferable to transport the cylinder on the floor of the passenger compartment.

Using propane BBQs on the Balcony: Yes or No?

Many Ontarians live in apartments and condominiums and should be aware of additional safety issues and restrictions regarding the use of barbecues on balconies. Barbecue use may be prohibited by the *Condominium Act* of your building or prohibited by the building owner or property manager, so ensure you have determined what restrictions are in place for your building. If barbecues are permitted, there are still some regulations governing the storage and use of propane in Ontario on balconies:

- the balcony is open (no closures or walls have been erected);
- cylinders are transported in a service elevator or when there are no service elevators, the person must use the passenger elevator alone to transport the cylinder;



- cylinders are kept outdoors;
- the barbecue is kept clear of all combustible materials in accordance with clearances listed on its rating plate or in the certified instructions; and
- the cylinder relief valve is at least one metre horizontally from any building opening below it, and three metres from a building air intake.

Remember once again — barbecues are only approved for outdoor use. It's always better to be safe, so if uncertain about the condition or any part of your barbecue, including your propane cylinder, replace it with a new component. Parts are readily available at most hardware stores and building centres. If you are uncomfortable performing safety checks and repairs on your propane or natural gas barbecue yourself, please contact a certified fuels-related technician. All technicians must be certified by TSSA. If unsure whether your contractor is registered, contact TSSA at 1-800-682-8772 www.tssa.org

For more information on barbecue safety and several other safety topics, visit TSSA's safety website at www.safetyinfo.ca

About TSSA

TSSA is an innovative, self-funded, non-government organization focused on delivering public safety services. It provides not-for-profit regulatory safety services in industry sectors such as natural gas, petroleum, propane fuels and equipment, amusement devices, elevating devices, boilers and pressure vessels, operating engineers, and upholstered and stuffed articles. The organization's vision is to be the world leader in public safety services.

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For more information on the Technical Standards and Safety Authority, please visit our website at www.tssa.org.