



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Summer Safety Reminders & Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment**

**Nashville, TN, ...** The Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA), in partnership with the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), continues their “What Fuels Your Fire?” firefighter recruitment and retention campaign. The campaign is part of the Tennessee Volunteer Workforce Solutions program designed to help Tennessee’s fire departments achieve a viable and sustainable volunteer firefighter workforce. The program is funded by a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant awarded to the TFCA by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to develop a model to enhance the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

As summer holidays and gatherings with family and friends are here, there are lots of summer safety reminders to share. NFPA has captured the following information about grill fire safety.

**When the warmer weather hits, there’s nothing better than the smell of food on the grill.**

Three out of five households own a gas grill, which translates to a lot of tasty meals. But it also means there’s an increased risk of home fires.

Each year an average of 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling, and close to half of all injuries involving grills are due to thermal burns. While nearly half of the people who grill do it year-round, July is the peak month for grill fires followed by May, June and August.

### **Grilling by the numbers**

- In 2014, 16,600 patients went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills
- July is the peak month for grill fires (17%), including both structure, outdoor or unclassified fires, followed by May, June and August
- A failure to clean the grill was the leading factor contributing to the fire in one –fifth of all grill structure fires (19%). In 17%, something that could catch fire was too close to the grill
- Leaks or breaks were the factor in 11% of grill structure fires and 23% of outside and unclassified grill fires
- Gas grills contribute to a higher number of home fires overall than their charcoal counterparts

To learn more about becoming a firefighter and joining a local volunteer fire department, please visit [www.VolunteerFireTN.org](http://www.VolunteerFireTN.org) .

### ***About the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. (TFCA)***

*The TFCA provides leadership to career and volunteer Fire Chiefs, Chief Fire Officers and managers of emergency service organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their knowledge, skills, and abilities. The TN Fire Chiefs Association (TFCA) also encourages the professional advancement of the*

*fire service to ensure and maintain greater protection of life and property from fire and natural or man-made disasters. The TFCA's mission is to provide leadership to career and volunteer chiefs, chief fire officers, and managers of Emergency Service Organizations throughout the State of Tennessee through vision, information, education, service and representation to enhance their professionalism and capabilities. More information about the TFCA is located at [www.tnfirechiefs.com](http://www.tnfirechiefs.com) .*

**About the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)**

*The IAFC represents the leadership of firefighters and emergency responders worldwide. IAFC members are the world's leading experts in firefighting, EMS, terrorism response, hazmat spills, natural disasters, search and rescue, and public-safety legislation. Since 1873, the IAFC has provided a forum for its members to exchange ideas, develop professionally and uncover the latest products and services available to first responders. Learn more at [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org).*