



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary, Department of Health

---

**PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

---

**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:  
Jeannine Mallory, Public Information Director  
PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
727-824-6908 (for media use only)

*Take Steps to Prevent Fire & Injury*  
**GRILLING SAFETY**

Gas and charcoal grills cause an average of 1,500 structure fires and 4,800 outdoor fires in or on home properties in the U.S. each year. With the summer upon us – along with picnics and barbecues – here are some safety tips from the **Pinellas County Health Department** and the Home Safety Council:

- Designate the grilling area a “No Play Zone,” keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least three feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.
- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.
- Never use a match to check for gas leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don’t attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never use a barbecue grill indoors, or in any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

**For more summer safety tips, contact us or visit [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org)**

###

*The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.*  
[www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com)