



Sedona Fire District

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Personnel
FROM: Kris Kazian, Fire Chief
DATE: January 9, 2017
SUBJECT: Lessons Learned from Station 5 Incident

The Serious Accident Investigation has been completed and the facts of the events of October 27, 2016 have been shared. The opportunity to look at lessons learned and actions taken by SFD and things anyone reading the report may consider to make themselves more safe or better prepared when using a LPG BBQ grill.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) states there is an average of 7,200 fires caused by propane gas BBQ grills annually. NFPA states in 2014 16,600 people were treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained while grilling and there is an average of \$118M of direct dollar loss from fires caused by grill fires. Failure to clean the grill was cited as the leading cause of grill caused structure fires.

SFD has reviewed the findings of the Serious Accident Investigation and have developed the following actions to further reduce the potential for incidents such as this to occur. The findings clearly illustrate the particulars and these recommendations are actions we are taking as an agency. Many of these recommendations are things you may elect to do to minimize your risk at your home or business as well.

- Remind personnel to not leave food cooking unattended
- Purchase and install a timer device that will turn off the propane (or natural gas) after a specified time as a back-up safety device
- Inspect and clean BBQ grills as part of the regular weekly duties including checking for leaks in the hoses
- Assure the grills are reassembled properly after any cleaning
- Create a clear “lock-out tag-out procedure to insure any appliance or device that is not working properly is not used until repaired
- Prohibit storage of any unconnected propane cylinders under the BBQ grill

A-Shift_____

B-Shift_____

C-Shift_____

- Work with Community Risk Management and Facilities to implement any recommendations for changing locations of grills to include cooking under any overhangs or other potential combustible areas not in compliance with fire safety codes

The events that occurred on October 27, 2016 have had a significant impact to SFD as a whole and life change impacts to one of our veteran members. The need to take lessons learned opportunities and reduce potential future opportunities is critical. While the impacts of this event are difficult to truly place a number on, the reality is, the damage to fire station 5 is in excess of \$50,000. The bulk of that is being covered by insurance. The injuries to the SFD employee who spent over 3 weeks in the burn unit as well as significant outpatient rehab post discharge will be very expensive, the costs are primarily covered by our Workers Compensation carrier. Realizing in the end, SFD and future budgets will be impacted by annual renewal increases.

SFD will continue its vigilance for best practice opportunities and have had a chance to reevaluate best practices in all aspects of our work. At times, even firefighters and fire stations are subjected to the dangers of fire. We encourage you and your family to evaluate the grill at your home or business and consider your grilling procedures to insure your safety.