



**HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 2009

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Incident Update - 1100 Augusta

The Houston Fire Department was dispatched to an apartment fire about 10:45 p.m. on October 17, 2009, at the Woods of Augusta Apartments, 1100 Augusta. The three-alarm fire was taped out at about 1:45 a.m. A building of 16 units was severely damaged. The second floor units were completely destroyed and the first floor units suffered massive water damage.

HFD Arson Investigators determined the cause of the fire to be accidental due to an unattended outside gas grill too close to combustibles.

Houston Fire Department would like to take this time to remind citizens about some simple safety tips when it comes to barbecuing and using grills.

- First, know what kind of barbeque pit you have. Propane gas grills use propane, and natural gas grills use gas pumped from your home. These two types of barbeque grills are not interchangeable. The third grill is the charcoal grill that uses charcoal briquettes and lighter fluid.
- Before using the barbeque pit, read all instructions and be familiar with safety, operation and handling instructions.
- Keep the grill clean, avoiding grease buildups that can cause flare-ups or fires. Never put lighter fluid directly on flames.
- Make sure you are not too close to houses, garages, or buildings (there is a 10 - foot minimum for multifamily dwellings)
- Store all lighting fluids and matches away from children.
- You should have a multi-purpose A-B-C fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of water or sand near by.
- Never leave cooking unattended, and keep all children and pets at least five feet away from the grill.
- Use proper cooking utensils and only those fluids recommended for charcoal grilling.
- Dispose of the charcoal properly. Soak the coals in water overnight before disposing of them. Remember hot coals can smolder for hours and start a fire long after your and your family are asleep.

Working Smoke Detectors Save Lives!