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## Spring maintenance saves trouble

The traditional time of year for major house cleaning is slowly coming around. Even though, "Old Man Winter" has made his presence known over the last while, Spring is making every effort to come forward. And when the days are longer, the sun is warmer and the remnants of remaining ice and snow are gone, thoughts of that sizzling steak and burger come to mind.  
Hibernating over the long, cold winter, barbecues start getting dragged from the caverns of garages and storage sheds.

**THE FIRE PIT**  
with Captain David Ford  


Placed on the decks with a quick once over, thoughts of firing up the beast come to mind.  
Before trying to fire up these appliances though, Chief of Fire Prevention and Public Education Harry Olivieri offers a few simple tips to make your barbecuing season a little safer:  
1. Clean all the burner ports with a pipe cleaner. This will remove any insects, cobwebs and scale.

2. Check and make sure the cylinder is partially full or full.  
3. Turn on the valve and soap test all the connections with a 50-50 soap/water solution. You don't want to see bubbles.  
4. Closely inspect all the hoses for cracks and abrasions.  
5. Keeping the lid open, light the barbecue following the manufacturers' instructions.  
6. Never attempt to light the barbecue with the lid down.

7. Never cook in an enclosed area.  
8. Burns are very, very serious and painful. Keep a constant eye on small children at all times when near the barbecue.  
Chief Olivieri says, "We do respond to a number of calls for barbecue fires over the year, but taking a bit of time for preventative maintenance will most likely reduce the chances of coming to your home."  
For more safety tips regarding the barbecue season please call:  
David Ford Captain  
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