



# Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 3, 2024

Contact: Kyle Strathman  
Kyle.Strathman@ks.gov

## Consumer Connection: Practice grill safety this Fourth of July

Topeka, Kan. – With the Fourth of July holiday approaching, the Kansas Department of Insurance reminds Kansans to prioritize safety when grilling outdoors. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, about 5,700 grill fires cause an average of \$37 million in damage annually.

“A grill fire can quickly turn into a devastating house fire, so taking a few precautions can help ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday for everyone,” said Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt.

The Department suggests the following safety tips to help Kansans prevent grill fires:

- **Maintain your grill** – Before each use, check your grill for leaks or loose connections in the propane hose. Clean any grease buildup from the grill and surrounding areas.
- **Choose a safe location** – Place your grill on a level, stable surface away from your home, siding, deck railings or overhanging eaves. Never grill indoors or in an enclosed space.
- **Keep an extinguisher nearby** – Having a fire extinguisher readily available is crucial for extinguishing small fires quickly. Never leave a grill unattended.

Remember to check your homeowners insurance to ensure it covers damage caused by grill fires. The Department encourages Kansans to contact their insurance agent to discuss their homeowners insurance coverage and any limitations that may apply. Conduct a home inventory by using our free Personal Home Inventory at [insurance.kansas.gov/home-renters-insurance](https://insurance.kansas.gov/home-renters-insurance).

Contact the Kansas Department of Insurance’s Consumer Assistance Division toll-free at 1-800-432-2484, by email at [KDOI.Complaints@ks.gov](mailto:KDOI.Complaints@ks.gov) or online at [insurance.kansas.gov](https://insurance.kansas.gov) for any claims-related questions or concerns.

###

*The Kansas Department of Insurance was established in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to **regulate** companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, **educate** consumers about all things insurance and securities, and **advocate** for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.*