

FASNY offers BBQ and grilling tips for lockdown

By the Firemen's Association of the State of New York

As New Yorkers are beginning to emerge from "New York State on PAUSE," looking toward nicer weather and Memorial Day weekend, many will be dusting off and firing up their grills for the first time in months. The Firemen's Association of the State of New York urges all New Yorkers to follow some basic rules and tips to avoid accidents and injuries, and to remember not to hesitate to call for help needed.

"The warmer weather will certainly encourage New Yorkers to break out their barbecues for some outdoor cooking," FASNY President Steven Klein said. "We want all residents to stay safe as we emerge from quarantine and heed some basic safety tips. We also remind everyone to continue to follow social distancing rules to keep their families and other families safe for the coming months." According to the National Fire

Protection Association (NFPA), from 2014-18, an average of 19,700 patients per year went to emergency rooms because of injuries involving grills; and gas grills were involved in an average of 8,900 home fires per year - including 3,900 structure fires and 4,900 outdoor fires annually.

Keep everyone safe by following the important tips below.

Tips from NFPA & FASNY:

✓ Propane and charcoal barbecue grills should only be used outdoors.

✓ The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

✓ Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.

✓ Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.

✓ Never leave your grill unattended.



✓ Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Grilling Safety Video from the NFPA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=65RCHLNiKa8&feature=youtu.be>

About FASNY
 Founded in 1872, the Fire-

men's Association of the State of New York represents the interests of the approximately 90,000 volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel in New York. For more information, visit www.fasny.com.

IN THE NEWS

Niagara County hosts drive-thru mask pickup

Niagara County has begun phase one of "New York Forward" with some businesses beginning to reopen. As such, Legislator Will Collins on Wednesday announced the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services is hosting a drive-thru mask pickup station for those who need to acquire face coverings for their employees.

The cloth masks will be available for pick-up at the Niagara County Department of Emergency Services Public Safety Training Facility located at 5574 Niagara St., Ext., Lockport, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 22.

The masks were acquired through the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

Phase one includes construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, re-

tail (limited to curbside or in-store pickup or drop off) and wholesale trade.

Businesses slated to open in future phases are welcome to request masks, as well.

"We are happy that phase one is underway and want it to be a success, and part of that means making sure businesses take the proper precautions to protect their employees and clients" said Collins, who owns his own construction company. "Niagara County wants to do all we can to help facilitate this, which is why we are providing face coverings at no charge."

He added, "These masks are also available to businesses that cannot yet open, but should already be putting their safety plans together. As a contractor, I have been working on my COVID-19 safety plan and the steps I need to take to reopen. No matter the phase of reopening your business

falls into, it's never too soon to begin planning - and that includes making sure you have the necessary supplies like masks."

Collins said all interested business owners should complete the "Niagara County Business Cloth Mask Request Form" form available on the Niagara County Emergency Services webpage at www.niagaracounty.com/Fire/. Submit completed forms to NCEM@niagaracounty.com.

Catholic Health resumes full elective surgery schedule

Following approval from the New York State Department of Health to resume elective surgeries in Catholic Health on May 5, the health system expects to complete a full caseload of procedures this week. Catholic Health began a limited elective surgery schedule last week, after becoming the first hospital system in Erie County to

receive a waiver from the Department of Health to begin performing procedures that have been suspended since early March.

Creating a series of new processes in less than two weeks to meet the requirements of the waiver and keep its patients and staff safe, Catholic Health now tests all patients for COVID-19 prior to surgery, has developed a greeter process to ensure the comfort and safety of all patients, and is working with families to keep them updated while they are not able to wait on-site during their loved one's surgical procedure.

Catholic Health has been able to keep its surgical hospitals virtually COVID-free by transferring nearly all COVID patients to its treatment facility at St. Joseph Campus in Cheektowaga and its St. Joseph Post-Acute Center in Orchard Park. Along with its three Erie County Hospitals, Catholic Health has also been performing elective surgery procedures at Mount St. Mary's Hospital since early May.

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VFW Post 7487 to lay wreaths

Veterans of Foreign Wars Downriver Post 7487 will hold a Memorial Day observance beginning at 11 a.m. Monday in front of the "Circle of Honor" monument in Academy Park.

On Tuesday, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the state would allow Memorial Day ceremonies of 10 people or less statewide, with final decisions about ceremonies being left to local governments.

Accordingly, the only people allowed within the "Circle" area will be VFW members.

The following safety measures are recommended:

• Visitors can watch from their cars or from a safe distance of more than 6 feet away.

• Visitors should wear a mask and be physically distanced from other spectators - at least 6 feet away.

• Families and relatives should remain together.

"Memorial Day is coming up. That is an important American tradition," Cuomo said. "We want to honor our veterans and we want to make sure that no matter what happens we are still honoring our

veterans. The state will allow ceremonies, local ceremonies of up to 10 people or less. We hope that those ceremonies are broadcast; televised in their areas so people can be a part of honoring that tradition.

"Local governments can make a decision that they don't want those ceremonies to happen; they don't want 10 people gathering. Ten is the CDC guideline, is for 10 people gathering. That's where the state got the recommendation from the federal CDC. But I can understand the difference of opinion, so we'll leave it up to local government."

"Vehicle parades I think are appropriate and should be encouraged and, again, this is an important tradition. Many people lost their lives. This is important to many, many families all across this state and nation. It's important to the veterans that they be recognized, and I think we can do that - and I think we can do it safely."

The VFW intends to landscape the area around the monuments in coming weeks.

VFW Post 313 to host Memorial Day remembrance by car

VFW Post 313 Quartermaster Lance Dickinson on Tuesday announced, "Since VFW Post 313 will not be able to have our traditional Memorial Day ceremony at Old Fort Niagara Cemetery this year, we would like those who are able to join us for a car drive-by remembrance at four local cemeteries.

"We will meet at the post on Monday, May 25, at 11 a.m., line up our vehicles and then drive to the Universal Cemetery, next to the First Presbyterian Church. Veterans will then get out of their vehicles and offer a salute in re-

membrance of our fallen comrades; we will then get back in our vehicles and drive to St. Bernard's Cemetery on Oak Street, offer a salute, then to Oakland Rural Cemetery, and end at Old Fort Niagara 1812 Cemetery with our final salute. At that point, we will disperse and head for home.

"There will not be any gathering after the event and no refreshments at the post for the safety of our members and community."

"I hope you can join us on this special day to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

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