



Fire Safety Tips for Tailgating on Campus



Auburn University is considered one of the top ten universities in the United States for hosting the best tailgates. Tailgating has become an autumn ritual, and is almost as big as the game itself. The typical setup can include generators, grills, portable fire pits, extension cords, TV's, satellite dishes and more. Such devices, in close proximity to fuels, combustibles and people, present many hazards and raise the need for increased awareness towards good fire safety practices. As tailgating continues to grow each year, we must ensure that we are following safe tailgating practices to keep our fellow fans and campus safe. The following tailgating rules and tips should be reviewed anytime you are planning to tailgate on the Auburn University campus.

GENERATORS

As generators can make your tailgating dreams come to life, there are some hazards associated with using generators, which include, but are not limited to:

- Shocks and electrocution from improper use of power or accidentally energizing other electrical systems;
 - Carbon monoxide from exhaust;
 - Fires from improperly refueling a generator or inappropriately storing the fuel for a generator; and
 - Noise and vibration hazards.
- 🔥 Always read and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions before operating a generator.
 - 🔥 Portable generators should not be filled while running and any fuel should be stored in a UL listed safety can.
 - 🔥 Never operate the generator near combustible material.
 - 🔥 All generators and fuel should be kept at a safe distance from cooking appliances.
 - 🔥 **Generators are not allowed within 50 feet of campus buildings and other designated no-grill areas, which includes parking decks.**
 - 🔥 Never operate under wet conditions. Take precautions to protect your generator and electrical cords from exposure to rain and puddles.
 - 🔥 If you are using extension cords, be sure they are UL listed, have a grounding pin, and are rated for the application. Also, be mindful where you run your extension cords to make sure they are not creating a trip hazard.
 - 🔥 Be mindful of other tailgaters around you. If you are not using a low decibel inverter generator, ensure that noise from your generator is not impacting others around you.



GRILLS

Grills are another integral part of tailgates. Ensure that you follow these fire safety practices to help eliminate the potential for a fire event.

- 🔥 Before operating your grill, read your safety guide and become familiar with your grills safety features.
- 🔥 If using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line.
- 🔥 All fires and hot coals must be contained within grills or other containers designed specifically for that purpose and should never be left unattended.
- 🔥 Charcoal fires need to be extinguished thoroughly with water before leaving them unattended.
- 🔥 Tailgaters need to place their charcoal in the designated containers rather than dumping it on the ground or in dumpsters. A limited number of hot charcoal containers are located in tailgate areas and are designed to accommodate hot or cold briquettes. If a container is not available in the area where you picnic, you should remove your charcoal from AU grounds for safe disposal.
- 🔥 **Grills are not allowed within 50 feet of campus buildings, parking decks, or other designated no-grill areas.**



For Police, Fire and Rescue Call 9-1-1

- 🔥 Always use match-light or quick-light type of charcoal. Use of lighter fluid is strongly discouraged.
- 🔥 Do not light a gas grill with lid closed, which can result in an explosion.
- 🔥 A fully charged ABC fire extinguisher should be present and easily accessible during all grilling activities.
- 🔥 LP Tanks should be D.O.T. approved for propane use, equipped with an UL listed safety relief valve, be in good condition, properly connected and secured in an upright position.
- 🔥 Be aware of changing weather conditions. Winds can carry embers and debris which can lead to fires spreading.

Source: Tips for Tailgaters – Auburn (<https://cws.auburn.edu/shared/content/files/1498/tailgaters.pdf>)

OSHA (https://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/HurricaneFacts/portable_generator_safety.html)



The Allstate Blog – (https://blog.allstate.com/top-10-tailgating-safety-tips/?intcid=ILC-Internal-Search-Results-120808:tailgating:result%202&_ga=2.62032428.1469482840.1505319051-1359522839.1505319051)

An Auburn Tradition – (<https://aufsi.auburn.edu/tailgate/safety/fire-safety/>)

RVs

- 🔥 Be aware that a hot exhaust pipe or catalytic converter can ignite dry grass when parking in a field.
- 🔥 Keep your RV's underpinnings clean. Grease and oil buildup on the engine and transmission can, when combined with a fuel leak or short-circuited wire, lead to a fire.
- 🔥 Gasoline and propane poses an immediate and explosive danger. Diesel fuel on the other hand, dissipates more slowly and therefore can remain a danger for a longer period.
- 🔥 When using the galley stove remember that if the flame goes out, the gas will continue to flow and could result in an explosion. Never leave the stove unattended or use it to heat your coach.
- 🔥 In a compact galley, combustibles such as paper towels, styrofoam plates or plastic are more apt to be closer to the stove compared to at home. Be even more aware of this when cooking in your RV.
- 🔥 Prior to arrival, check any fuel burning appliances to ensure they are properly vented and free of obstructions such as cobwebs, birds' nests, insects, etc...
- 🔥 Store flammable liquids, including small disposable propane cylinders outside of the RV.
- 🔥 Spontaneous combustion can occur even with damp charcoal. Buy charcoal fresh and store in metal container.
- 🔥 Always have a fully charged ABC fire extinguisher available and easily accessible. Periodically invert and shake or tap the bottom of your extinguisher to loosen the powder inside.
- 🔥 It's recommended you install and maintain at least one smoke alarm and one carbon monoxide alarm near the sleeping area in your RV and make sure everyone understands what the different alarms indicate.
- 🔥 The first rule of RV firefighting is to save lives first and property second. Have a fire escape plan in place that all family members are familiar with and have practiced. If a fire occurs, get yourself and your family to safety before attempting to extinguish any fire. Never re-enter a burning RV! **GET OUT AND STAY OUT!**



Source: RVtravel.com (<http://www.rvtravel.com/publish/firerv.shtml>)

WindsorFire.com (<http://www.windsorfire.com/divisions-prevention-rv-fire-safety-guidelines>)

RVUniversity.com (<http://www.rvuniversity.com/article.php/20070514105149937>)

After the final whistle blows and the cheering stops, please remember to leave the Auburn campus as beautiful as you found it by placing all trash and recycling in the proper bins located throughout university tailgating areas, RV lots and the stadium for your convenience. Litter and recycling bags will also be made available in tailgate areas and RV lots to help keep the university litter-free. Be a tidy Tiger!

For Police, Fire and Rescue Call 9-1-1