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Helpful Reminders from Interstate Printing Company

What is Labor Day?

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Labor Day, celebrated each year on the first Monday in September, is a holiday created by the labor movement as a tribute to American workers for their contributions to the strength and prosperity of the United States. It was born in the midst of the Industrial Revolution, when the average American worked 12 hours a day seven days a week. While it is now viewed primarily as a day of celebration and relaxation, much of the early Labor Day events were more in the nature of protests.

Labor Day actually originated in Canada, but the version celebrated in the United States was first organized by the Central Labor Union and celebrated in New York City on Tuesday, September 5, 1882. At that event, 10,000 workers took an unpaid day off from work to march from City Hall to Union Square, both to honor workers as well as to protest issues they had with employers. A year later, the Central Labor Union repeated the event on September 5, 1883.

The idea began to spread to other cities, and in 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the day to mark the holiday. By 1885, Labor Day spread to industrial centers around the country, and many cities began passing municipal ordinances to recognize the holiday. The state governments quickly began to enact statewide legislation recognizing the Labor Day holiday. Finally, on June 28, 1893, Congress recognized the first Monday in September a National Holiday, and made it a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories under its jurisdiction.

In recent years, most people have regarded Labor Day as a vacation day at the end of summer. However, the importance of what the day represents should not be forgotten.



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Get grilled on barbecue safety

Nothing says summer fun like a backyard barbecue, but if you don't follow safe grilling procedures, the fun won't last long. According to the National Fire Protection Association, fire department respond to an average of 7,900 home fires involving grills each year, with the most grill-related fires occurring in June and July.

Fortunately, many such fires can be prevented with proper precautions. Following the tips below can help you stay safe when firing up your grill this holiday:

- Keep grills at least ten feet away from your home, railings, eaves, bushes, and tree branches while in use and until they have cooled completely.
- Never use a grill inside your home or garage.
- Always stay near the grill when cooking and keep children and pets away from the grill.
- If you use a gas grill, regularly inspect the propane tank to make sure there are no leaks.
- Never use starter fluid with a gas grill.
- Always keep propane containers upright.
- Keep your grill clean to minimize flare-ups.

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