

media release



Australia Day BBQ safety

Thursday, 25 January 2018

With temperatures forecast to soar this Australia Day long weekend, South Australia's fire services have teamed up with the Office of the Technical Regulator to provide tips on safely using barbeques.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters have responded to 105 fires in the last three years linked to barbeques not being adequately checked and maintained or being used inappropriately.

Earlier this month MFS firefighters attended a house fire where the occupant was hospitalised with burns resulting from a fire which started during a gas bottle changeover.

It is important to do a maintenance check before using the barbeque to ensure the gas cylinder, hose lines, "o" rings, connectors and control valves are in good working order. A fire from a deteriorated hose line is a common cause of barbeque fires and this maintenance check can significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or loss of life and property caused by such a fire.

A checklist for barbeque maintenance is available [here](#)

MFS Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Greg Howard, said the MFS is asking anyone planning to use their barbeque this Australia Day long weekend to put aside five minutes this week to prepare the barbeque and conduct a maintenance check.

"To perform the check, first visually check all hose lines for any deterioration. You should replace the hose if it has discoloured, become brittle or has any cracks appearing.

"Then turn the cylinder on, and with the barbeque knobs turned off, apply copious amounts of soapy water over all the hoses and valves. Bubbles forming will indicate a gas leak. Immediately turn the gas cylinder off and replace the hoses if a leak is found.

Importantly, never leave your barbeque unattended and ensure you keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children.

CFS State Duty Commander Phil McDonough said during the Fire Danger Season extra precautions need to be taken when using a barbeque.

"Everyone must ensure that a barbeque has at least four metres clearance from flammable materials; a person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished, and an appropriate fire extinguisher is at hand.

"The weather on the Australia Day weekend is forecast to be very hot, and should a Total Fire Ban be declared then solid fuel barbeques (such as Webers) cannot be used, gas barbeques are fine if they are within 15 metres of a home," said CFS Commander McDonough.

Mr Tom Sika, Manager Gas Installation and Appliance Safety from the Office of the Technical Regulator said anyone planning to use a gas barbeque should ensure the barbeque including the hose and regulator are safety certified for use in Australia.

"Barbeques are used and stored outside where they are often exposed to the elements. This leads to gas connections deteriorating quickly. Never assume that your BBQ will be in the same condition as it was the last time you used it.

"When you've finished using the barbeque, turn the gas off at both the cylinder and barbeque. Turning off the cylinder first is the safer method, as it allows gas in the pipe to burn off rather than trapping it between the cylinder and the barbeque," said Mr Sika.

For media enquiries telephone the

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