

media release



See in the New Year safely

Tuesday, 30 December, 2014

The Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) wish all South Australians happy and safe New Year celebrations.

South Australian Fire Services warn that illegal fireworks, sparklers and barbeques are some of the key dangers as people welcome in the New Year.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Glenn Benham warns that only licensed persons may use fireworks.

“People illegally using fireworks put themselves, friends and loved ones at risk of serious injury, disfigurement - or even death. They also risk significant penalties or civil damages claims. That’s why we’re asking people to leave fireworks to the experts,” Assistant Chief Officer Benham said.

CFS State Coordinator Brenton Eden said the misuse of fireworks also heightens the risk of fires starting that could have damaging consequences.

“In South Australia, only licenced pyrotechnicians are permitted to use fireworks and during the Fire Danger Season a permit is required under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*,” Mr Eden said.”

The MFS and CFS remind the public that ‘sky lanterns’ - a paper lantern that is set alight to make it float in the air – are banned from use in South Australia due to the risk of starting a bushfire or structure fire where it lands.

The CFS says in districts where a Total Fire Ban has been declared, the lighting of fires in open areas is banned including the use of Weber-style barbeques, camp fires and sparklers, with some exceptions through a Schedule 10 permit being issued by a local council.

The MFS said if there are no Total Fire Bans declared, and sparklers are able to be used, parents must supervise children at all times and be mindful of the risk of sparks igniting children’s clothing or combustible items. Special attention should be paid to children who may sustain burns to fingers during or after sparkler use.

MFS Assistant Chief Officer Benham said, “Anyone planning to fire up the barbeque over New Year’s Eve should first give it a good clean, make sure the connections are tight and check for signs of a gas leak using soapy water over the hoses and valves. If you’re in any doubt, replace your hoses and/or gas cylinder.”

South Australian Fire Services are hopeful South Australians heed these warnings and are all able to see in the New Year safely!

**For media enquiries telephone the
MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849**

Further information:

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