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**METROPOLITAN
FIRE
SERVICE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

MEDIA RELEASE

BARBEQUE FIRE DANGER!

A simple evening meal turned tragic recently when a suspected leaking hose from a barbeque caused a gas explosion, burning the mother of five year old twins. The incident has prompted a warning from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service about the maintenance of barbeques.

With the onset of the warm spring weather and with the start of daylight saving imminent, barbeques are being taken out of storage. But before the barbie is fired up for the first time, it's important to do a quick maintenance check.

- Check the expiry date on your gas cylinder. Gas cylinders must be tested every 10 years.
- Visually check all hose lines and the cylinder to make sure that they are all in good condition.
- Check all hose connections and control valves for gas leaks. With the cylinder on and the barbeque knobs turned off, use a very wet soapy cloth (or a paint brush and soapy solution) and slop soapy water over all the hoses and valves. Bubbling will indicate a gas leak.
- Check that hoses and connections are clear of burners/hot metal.
- Give the barbeque a good scrub to remove fat build-up and empty the fat tray under the barbeque.

“Just a few moments of your time might save you years of heartache!” District Officer Allan Foster, from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service, said. “Barbeques are usually kept outside and they do deteriorate quickly. Don’t just assume that your barbeque will be in the same condition you left it at the end of last summer. Check it and clean it before you light up!”

A couple of other safety pointers are also worth bearing in mind, especially if you have a barbeque kettle or a wood fired barbeque.

- Make sure that you keep fire starters, matches and lighters in a secure place. Don’t leave them around for children to play with.
- Do not use an accelerant, like petrol, to assist in lighting the kettle or barbeque.
- Always check for Total Fire Bans before you light up. Ring 1300 362 361.

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