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**METROPOLITAN  
FIRE  
SERVICE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **BARBEQUE FIRE DANGER!**

The second barbeque fire within two weeks has prompted another warning from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service about the maintenance of barbeques. Two weeks ago a simple evening meal turned tragic when a suspected leaking hose from a barbeque caused a gas explosion, burning the mother of five year old twins. Last night an almost identical barbeque fire in Tranmere burnt a two year old toddler and his father after gas leaked from the barbeque connections, pooled in the garden and ignited in a ball of flame.

“We are urgently trying to warn people to check and service their barbeques before they fire them up for the summer season,” said District Officer Allan Foster from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service. “Just a few moments of your time might save you years of heartache!”

The MFS recommends the following maintenance procedure:

- 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 gas bottle on and the barbeque knobs turned off, use a very wet soapy cloth (or a paint brush and soapy solution) and apply 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.

“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!” District Officer Foster said.

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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**Government  
of South Australia**