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**METROPOLITAN
FIRE
SERVICE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

MEDIA RELEASE

FAT FIRE INJURY

A tragic accident has left a young woman with burns to her arm and back.

Firefighters were called to a residence in Penzance Street Christies Beach at 10:40 last night after receiving a call from neighbours. Unfortunately, the young women used water in an attempt to extinguish a fat fire in the kitchen, consequently receiving burns serious enough to require treatment in hospital. The incident has prompted a warning from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service about the danger of fat fires.

Cooking remains the single biggest cause of fire in the home: over 50% of all house fires begin in the kitchen. Sadly, these fires can escalate into serious house fires or become devastating burn injuries because people panic and don't know how to put the fire out.

"Fat fires are especially dangerous," District Officer Allan Foster, from the SA Metropolitan Fire Service, said. "You must NEVER use water to put out a fat fire. It will explode and you and the room will be covered in burning oil. And you should never try to carry the burning pan outside as you risk spilling the burning oil on yourself and spreading the fire as you go."

The best way to put out a fire on the stove is with a fire blanket. Then turn the stove off, leave the fire blanket in place and call 000 for the fire service. If you don't have a fire blanket, use a saucepan lid or even the breadboard to cover the pan – anything which will starve the fire of oxygen and smother it.

"Every kitchen should be equipped with a fire blanket! Fire blankets which meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 3504 are not expensive and they are readily available at hardware and variety stores," said District Officer Foster. "And when you teach your children how to cook, make sure you also teach them about fire safety and how to put out a fire."

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