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MEDIA RELEASE

Risk takes no holiday

Don't let a fire spoil your fun.

The SA Metropolitan Fire Service and the Country Fire Service have issued a timely reminder about the potential danger of barbecues and campfires during the fire danger season.

Fire crews have been called to approximately 60 incidents involving barbecues and gas cylinders in the last few months.

Alan Foster of the Metropolitan Fire Service says that many will be celebrating Australia Day on the weekend with a barbeque, and, a few simple checks may prevent years of pain and suffering.

'Outdoor barbecues do deteriorate quickly. Don't assume that your barbecue will be in the same condition you left it when last used' Mr Foster says.

'If you haven't used your barbeque this summer already take a few minutes to check and clean it'.

Before lighting your barbecue remember to:

- check the condition of your gas cylinder, hoses and valves
- check all hose connections and control valves for gas leaks
- check the expiry date on your gas cylinder
- check that hoses and connections are clear of burners/hot metal, and
- give the barbecue a good scrub to remove fat build-up.

If you have a barbecue kettle or a wood fired barbecue:

- do not use an accelerant, like petrol, to assist in lighting the kettle or barbecue
- keep fire starters, matches and lighters in a secure place, and
- always check the Fire Ban information before you light up.

Leigh Miller of the Country Fire Service also reminds campers and holiday makers to be aware of the devastation and damage even a small spark can cause in these extremely dry conditions.

'A few simple rules may prevent a tragedy and avoid personal injury when you are camping', Mr Miller says.

'Always check the fire ban information before you start your barbecue.

Barbecues and campfires may only be used if:

- campfires are lit in a trench at least 30cm deep and is no more than 1metre square.
- there is adequate clearance around and above the area for a distance of at least 4 metres.
- there is a responsible person in attendance with water or an extinguishing agent, and
- the fire is completely out before leaving the area.

Campfires and barbecues are banned in all national parks and forestry reserves during the fire danger season.

Gas barbecues may be used in some national parks' reserves on days other than Total Fire Ban days during the fire danger season, however, it is advisable to check the signs at the entrance to the parks or at the local national parks office.

All wood and solid fuel barbecues are banned from use on total fire ban days and gas or electric BBQs are only allowed within 15 metres of a home or on a coastal foreshore.

Detailed information on the use of backyard barbecues can be accessed on the SA Metropolitan Fire Service website at www.samfs.sa.gov.au/community/domestic.asp.

For detailed information on Campfires and Barbecues go to the Country Fire Service website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au – Protecting Yourself – Fact Sheets – Campfires and Barbecues.

For detailed information on Campfires and Barbecues in National Parks go to the Department of Environment and Heritage website at www.environment.sa.gov.au/ - Parks – Visitor Information – Fire Bans/Fire Restrictions – Fire Restrictions

For fire ban information ring 1300 362 361.