

media release



South Australian Fire Services Safety Advice for the New Year Celebrations

Friday 30 December 2011

The Country Fire Service (CFS) and Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) are together urging South Australians to celebrate in a safe and responsible manner this New Year's Eve.

With very hot and dry weather predicted across much of the State, the State's fire fighting agencies are reminding residents of the dangers associated with pyrotechnics.

CFS State Coordinator Leigh Miller says that the misuse of fireworks in backyards, at parties or local parks and the beach increases the risk of fires starting and can have devastating results.

"As the New Year approaches, the use of fireworks is irresponsible and dangerous. South Australians are reminded that, unless they are a licensed pyrotechnician, it is an offence at any time of the year to use, buy or import, or to have fireworks in their possession or custody.

"Persons illegally using fireworks expose themselves and others to serious injury and even death, and can result in significant penalties and civil damages claims. At New Year and any other time of the year, leave fireworks to the pyrotechnic experts, as the risk of fire and injury is high." MFS Commander Glenn Benham said.

During the Fire Danger Season and on days of Total Fire bans, sparklers and bamboo flares must not be used in the open air without a permit issued under the Fire and Emergency Services Act.

The emergency services will be on high alert due to forecast bushfire danger conditions and those enjoying New Year's Eve gatherings should be mindful of ensuring their celebrations are safe.

People are urged to remember if you are having a campfire you must comply with regulations and make sure the fire is extinguished before leaving.

Campfire Regulations during the Fire Danger Season require that:

- The fire is in a 30cm deep trench and no more than one metre square in area,
- You have a four metre cleared space around and above the fire,
- A responsible person is in attendance at all times,
- An adequate agent (e.g. water) to extinguish the fire is at hand.

On a Total Fire Ban day campfires are only permitted with a valid Schedule 10 permit available from your local Council.



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“We do not want New Year celebrations turning to tragedy because of irresponsible acts,” Mr Miller said.

Commander Benham has also reminded people that they need to comply with all regulations regarding the use of gas and wood-fired barbecues and pizza ovens during the bushfire danger season.

“Ensure your barbecues or weber-type devices are properly serviced and maintained before you use them and that you are aware of the circumstances under which you may not be able to use them without a permit.” Mr Benham said.

Ensure this New Year is a safe and happy one, and celebrate without making risky choices that could result in fire and injury.

For full conditions and restrictions during the Fire Danger Season and on Total Fire Bans view the CFS Website www.cfs.sa.gov.au

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

Further information:

Contact the Bushfire Information Hotline **1300 362 361**
For deaf and hearing impaired or teletype service **TTY 133 677**
Or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au and www.mfs.sa.gov.au



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