

# media release



## Fire services urge extra care during gas disruption

Wednesday, 15 April 2015

The Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) are urging consumers in the Port Pirie and Whyalla region to take extra care when using portable gas appliances and heed all warnings from the supplier during the extended period of natural gas disruption.

Regional communities involved have been advised by the APA Group that representatives will visit all gas-connected properties to ensure gas meters are turned off before they re-establish supply. They will also re-light appliances for consumers.

In the interim, Leigh Miller, CFS Director Preparedness Operations, warns that the Fire Danger season has not yet ended for Flinders and Eastern Eyre Peninsula and people must remember there are restrictions in place regarding the use of barbeques, kettles and outdoor wood fire ovens.

“There must be at least four metres between these cooking items and any materials which are flammable,” Mr Miller said.

“Fires should never be left unattended and always keep an appropriate extinguisher or charged water hosepipe on hand.”

MFS Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Greg Howard said it’s important that people check and clean their equipment and appliances before use.

“Check the expiry date on your gas cylinder, as cylinders must be tested every 10 years or replaced altogether. Give the barbeque or kettle a good clean to remove fat build up, empty the fat tray underneath and check LPG cylinders, hose connections and control valves for leaks,” MFS Commander, Greg Howard said.

If householders intend to use portable butane stoves and cookers they should read and follow the manufacturer instructions carefully, ensuring adequate ventilation is maintained at all times.

Barbeques and kettles must only be used outside. The MFS and CFS encourage people to follow these tips for gas barbeques:

- Check the expiry date on your gas cylinder. Cylinders must be tested every 10 years.
- Visually check that all hose lines and the cylinder are in good condition.
- Check that all ‘o’ rings are in good condition and are visible in the hose connections. They must be soft and pliable, not hard and cracked.
- Check all hose connections and control valves for gas leaks. Turn the cylinder on, and with the barbeque knobs turned off, use a very wet soapy cloth (or a paint brush and soapy solution) and apply copious amounts of soapy water over all the hoses and valves. Bubbles forming will indicate a leak.
- Check that hoses and connections are clear of burners or hot metal parts.
- Give the barbeque a good scrub to remove fat build-up and empty the fat tray under the barbeque.
- Always check the current fire ban information before you light a barbeque.

Tips for a barbeque kettle or a wood fired barbeque:

- Do not use an accelerant, like petrol, to assist in lighting the kettle or barbeque.
- Keep fire starters, matches and lighters in a secure place away from children.
- Always check the current fire ban information before you light up.

**For media enquiries telephone the**

**MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8212 9849**

**Further information:**

MFS Community Education Department **8204 3611** Country callers **1300 737 637**

For deaf and hearing impaired or teletype service **TTY 133 677**

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