

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Don't let your Australia Day BBQ end in tears!

Monday, 25 January 2016

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is urging the community to prepare their barbeque just as carefully as they will prepare the food to cook on it this Australia Day.

MFS Commander Guy Uren said that without regular maintenance, a barbeque has the potential to cause a much bigger fire than you need to cook on.

“Firefighters are responded far too often to barbeque fires, gas leaks or to assist paramedics when someone is injured. On Australia Day last year MFS firefighters were responded to five BBQ related fires and this is five too many.

“It’s important that people take the small amount of time required to prepare their barbeque before use by checking and cleaning it. Scrub the barbeque to remove fat build up, check and empty the fat tray underneath if it’s full and check LPG cylinders, hose connections and control valves for gas leaks,” Commander Uren said.

The MFS says that if an LPG cylinder is ten (10) or more years old, you must have it tested or replace it altogether.

It is also important for people to monitor current fire ban information before lighting a barbeque or campfire.

“The use of heat bead or wood-fired barbeques and kettles is prohibited on days when a Total Fire Ban has been declared unless a permit has been issued from a local council,” Commander Uren said.

“Gas and electric barbeques can be used on a day of Total Fire Ban, provided they are used within 15 metres of domestic building or on a coastal foreshore with a minimum four (4) metre cleared space around and above the barbeque,” he said.

“When using your barbeque have someone ensure that you have a suitable fire suppressant such as water or an appropriate extinguisher on hand at all times.”

Pre-check

- Check the expiry date on your gas cylinder. Gas cylinders must be tested every ten years.
- Visually check all hose lines for splits, cracks or deterioration of the surface. You should replace the hose if it shows any signs of damage or degradation. If the hose needs replacing it is good practice to replace the entire regulator assembly, as the rubber diaphragm inside the regulator also wears with age.
- Check the gas cylinder to make sure that it is in good condition with no dents or bulges. If rust on the cylinder is more than surface deep the cylinder should be tested or replaced.
- Check that all “o” rings are in good condition and are present where they are part of the connection. They must be soft and pliable, not hard and cracked.
- Check all hose connections and control valves (including regulators) for gas leaks. Turn the cylinder on, and with the barbeque knobs turned off, use a very wet soapy cloth, a paint brush and soapy solution or a spray bottle with soapy water and apply copious amounts of soapy water over all the hoses and valves. Bubbles forming will indicate a gas leak. *NOTE: Do not use any solution that contains ammonia as ammonia can cause the brass connections to become brittle and crack.*
- Give the barbeque a good scrub to remove fat build-up and empty the fat tray under the barbeque.

(Page 1 of 2.)

For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

Further information for the public:

Call the MFS Community Safety and Resilience Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours.
Country callers 1300 737 637.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

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When using your gas barbeque

- Check that hoses and connections are clear of burners or hot metal parts.
- Do not use the barbeque under the eaves of the house.
- Never use barbeques inside and only use them outside in well ventilated areas to avoid the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Ensure that nothing flammable is above or around the barbeque.
- Wear a shirt or top with close fitting sleeves when barbequing.
- Do not allow a large build-up of fats and oils in drip tray.
- Check gas connections for leaks every time the gas cylinder is changed.
- If the barbeque has a hood, always light it with the hood raised.
- Keep children and pets away from hot surfaces.
- During the Bushfire Danger Season always check for Fire Bans and any local council restrictions before you light up. Ring 1300 362 361.

When using your wood or solid fuel barbeque

- Keep fire starters, matches and lighters in a secure place. Don't leave them around for children to find.
- Do not burn treated timber as the chemicals released in the smoke are toxic.
- Do not use an accelerant, like petrol, to assist in lighting the kettle or barbeque.
- Dispose of ashes with care – ensure that ashes are cold.
- During the Bushfire Danger Season always check for Fire Bans and any local council restrictions before you light up. Ring 1300 362 361.

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(Page 2 of 2.)

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