

# media release



## Fireworks safety for New Year

Wednesday, 30 December 2020

South Australia's fire services are warning the community of the fire risks posed by fireworks, sparklers and barbeques as we ring in the new year.

A majority of public fireworks events in South Australia have been cancelled this year but the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) remind the public that there is no excuse to risk using fireworks at home.

MFS Community Engagement Officer, Angelo Mastripolito, said the risk of injury or property damage needs to be considered when planning New Year's Eve parties or gatherings.

"People using fireworks put themselves, their loved ones and the broader community at risk of serious injury, disfigurement – or even death. If caught, offenders also face significant penalties or civil damages."

"Sparklers can be used only if there are no Total Fire Bans declared but parents must always supervise children using them," MFS Community Engagement Officer Mastripolito said.

Warm, dry conditions are predicted across much of the state, bringing potential bushfire danger.

South Australians are reminded that 'sky lanterns' – a paper lantern that is set alight to make it float in the air – are banned from use in the state. Sky lanterns pose a high fire risk if it were to land on dry grass or become trapped under the eaves of a building.

CFS State Duty Commander, Sam Quigley said the use of illegal fireworks heightens the risk of bushfires starting during Fire Danger Season, but that there are also other steps we can take ensure everyone has a safe New Year's Eve.

"We do not want New Year celebrations turning to tragedy because of one irresponsible act."

"Local parks or backyard parties are popular this time of year. While you can use smokers and wood fire ovens on days where there are no Total Fire Bans in place, please make sure you have a fire extinguisher or plenty of water on hand to stop any fires from spreading," CFS State Duty Commander Quigley said.

The MFS and CFS also remind the community to check for leaks or breaks in gas lines and valves before firing up the barbeque over the festive period. When in doubt, replace hoses and/or the gas cylinder.

For more information about obtaining licences and permits for the use of fireworks, visit SafeWork SA website.

**For media enquiries telephone the  
MFS Media Line (08) 8204 3770 or the CFS Media Line on (08) 8115 3531**

Or visit [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and [www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)