

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## Splash into summer with pool chemical tips

Thursday, 3 December 2020

Swimming in the pool gets popular over summer but the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is warning pool owners to not get caught in the deep end with chemical safety.

Swimming pool chemicals are highly reactive and could start a fire, cause chemical burns or release toxic gases if they come into contact with other chemicals.

MFS Community Engagement Officer, Phil Evans, said pool chemicals should be stored away from each other, away from other chemicals in the shed and from combustibles.

“It’s not only when treating your pool that extra caution has to be taken but also when deciding where these chemicals are stored in your shed.”

“Granular or liquid pool ‘chlorine’, which is corrosive, reacts with acids to release potentially dangerous chlorine and must be stored separately from pool acid.”

“Always store chemicals in their original containers with a clearly visible use-by date. Most chemicals have common symbols labelled on containers but you should not rely on the presence of these symbols to determine if a product is hazardous,” MFS Community Engagement Officer Evans said.

Granular pool ‘chlorine’ (calcium hypochlorite) may start a fire if it comes into contact with other stored chemicals including:

- Fuels (e.g. petrol)
- Oils
- Brake fluid or
- Detergents.

The different types of pool chemicals - granular pool ‘chlorine’, liquid pool ‘chlorine’ and pool chlorine tablets - should not be mixed or used together. Some combinations are incompatible and may cause dangerous reactions that could release toxic gas, or cause fires or explosions.

“All chemicals should be kept out of reach of children and stored away from windows and doors to avoid the potential for an unwanted reaction,” MFS Community Engagement Officer Evans said.

“Because these chemicals can give off toxic fumes, when using them ensure you are in a well ventilated area.”

“Consider having an A:B:E dry powder fire extinguisher and a first aid kit within reach in case of a spill or leak.”

For further information, please access our MFS Home Fire and Life Safety Fact Sheet on Hazardous Materials on the [MFS website](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au).

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