

media release



Leave fireworks to the experts this NYE

Sunday, 30 December 2012

The state's fire services are urging people to ring in the new year with fire safety front of mind.

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Country Fire Service (CFS) warn that illegal fireworks, sparklers and barbeques are some of the key dangers as people welcome the new year.

Hot, dry conditions are predicted across much of the state, increasing the risk of bushfires.

MFS Assistant Chief Officer, Chris Smith warns that the illegal use of fireworks can lead to disaster.

"People illegally using fireworks put themselves, friends and loved ones at risk of serious injury, disfigurement - or even death. They also risk significant penalties or civil damages claims. That's why we're asking people to leave fireworks to the experts," Assistant Chief Officer Smith said.

CFS State Coordinator Brenton Eden said the misuse of fireworks also heightens the risk of fires starting that could have damaging consequences.

"We're reminding the public that the use of illegal fireworks is irresponsible and dangerous," Mr Eden said.

"In South Australia, it's an offence at any time of the year to use, buy, import or have fireworks in your possession and clearly not worth the risk to lives and property."

The MFS and CFS remind the public that 'sky lanterns' - a paper lantern that is set alight to make it float in the air - are banned from use in South Australia due to the risk of starting a bushfire or structure fire where it lands.

Mr Eden said on days of Total Fire Bans, the lighting of fires in open areas is also banned including the use of Webber-style barbeques, camp fires and sparklers, with some exceptions through a Schedule 10 permit being issued by a local council.

The MFS said if sparklers are able to be used, adults must supervise children at all times and be vigilant to the risk of sparks igniting children's clothing or other combustibles, and burns to fingers during or after use.

MFS Assistant Chief Officer Smith said, "Anyone planning to fire up the barbeque over New Year's Eve should first degrease it, make sure the connections are tight and check for signs of a gas leak using soapy water over the hoses and valves. If you're in doubt, replace your hoses and/or gas cylinder."

For media enquiries telephone the

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

Further information:

Contact the Bushfire Information Hotline **1300 362 361**

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

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