

media release



Don't let your Australia Day BBQ go up in flames

Friday, 25 January 2019

As the Australian Day long weekend approaches, South Australia's fire services urge the public to check their barbecues are in good working order to avoid potential injury or property damage.

Since 1 January 2018, Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters have responded to over 100 barbecue related calls linked to poor maintenance or inappropriate use.

MFS Commander of Community Safety and Resilience, Phil Crossley, explained that barbecues can deteriorate when left outside in the weather.

"People shouldn't assume that their barbecue will be in the same condition as when it was last used. Taking five minutes out of your day could save your life and the lives of your loved ones – and potentially, save your home," MFS Commander Crossley said.

To avoid the risk of a fire or an explosion, it is important to do a maintenance check before using the barbecue to ensure the gas cylinder, hose lines, "o" rings, connectors and control valves are in good working order.

"You can check for gas leaks by applying copious amounts of soapy water over all the hoses and valves with a very wet soapy cloth. If bubbles form, this will indicate a gas leak," explained MFS Commander Crossley.

SA Country Fire Service State Duty Commander, Nik Stanley said deteriorated hose lines are a common cause of barbecue fires.

"This simple maintenance check can significantly reduce the risk of serious injury or loss of life and property caused by such a fire."

"The weather on the long weekend is forecast to be hot. Should a Total Fire Ban be declared in the area you reside in, then solid fuel barbecues (such as Webers) cannot be used. Gas barbecues are fine if they are within 15 metres of a home, but make sure you have a responsible person and an extinguishing agent at hand whilst using any barbecue." said CFS Commander Stanley.

It is important to use your barbecue in a well ventilated area and according to the manufacturer's instructions. Ensure all flammable items are kept away from the barbecue to avoid the risk of fire spreading, and remove all residual fat after each use.

Preparing for the barbecue season and using your barbecue safely will go a long way towards making it an enjoyable summer.

Further BBQ safety tips

Comprehensive MFS barbecue safety tips are available [here](#).

CFS information about barbecue use during bushfire season and on Total Fire Ban Days is available [here](#).

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

Further information:

MFS Community Education Department **8204 3611** Country callers **1300 737 637**
For deaf and hearing impaired or teletype service **TTY 133 677**

Or visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au and www.mfs.sa.gov.au