

# media release

## SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## Don't let your caravan holiday go up in flames

Thursday 6 June 2019

With the long weekend and school holidays approaching, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) urge people to remain fire safe when staying in Recreational Vehicles (RV's).

Over the past four calendar years, there have been 62 fires involving RV's, with a further six occurrences this year already across South Australia. Tragically, since 2015, three people have died in RV fires within SA.

Recreational Vehicles include caravans, camper trailers, motor homes and all other forms of mobile accommodation.

MFS Community Education Officer Vinny Schar explains that these fires have been caused by an array of reasons, such as unattended cooking and electrical appliances.

"People need to remember that caravans and other RV's still need to be treated like a home, and this includes ensuring that there is a working smoke alarm installed.

"In South Australia if an occupied RV is on-site for 60 days or longer a hard-wired or 10 year, long life, non-removable, non-replaceable battery powered smoke alarm is required by law," said MFS Community Engagement Officer Vinny Schar.

CFS State Duty Commander Nik Stanley explained that it is also important to observe your surroundings when parking your RV.

"If you're in an area which allows camp fires, ensure the camp fire is set up in a location that is clear of vegetation and at least three metres away from the RV. Make sure that camp fire is completely extinguished with water before you leave the camp site," said CFS State Duty Commander Nik Stanley.

MFS Community Education Officer Vinny Schar said that it is important to have an escape plan for the family in case of a fire and that you should also equip your RV with a fire blanket and portable fire extinguisher.

"A fire blanket and fire extinguisher is your first line of defence should a small fire occur. The fire blanket and extinguisher should be located near an exit where they are easily accessible and where escape is also an option.

"Remember though, your life is far more important than your RV, so ensuring you exit safely is the number one priority. Once you have exited the RV contact the Fire Service on 000," MFS Community Engagement Officer Vinny Schar said.

The MFS provides the following tips for caravan and recreation vehicle fire safety:

**For media enquiries please telephone the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770**

Members of the public should call the MFS Community Education Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours for further information. Country callers 1300 737 637.

[www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)

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- Ensure any integrated gas or electrical systems are installed and maintained by a qualified tradesperson.
- Turn off the gas cylinder valve before travelling.
- Cook with care; never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep gas or electric heaters well clear of internal fittings. Turn heaters off at the power point or gas cylinder before going to bed.
- Dispose of cigarettes carefully. Provide deep-sided ashtrays. Never smoke in bed.
- Switch off all electrical appliances at the power point and unplug when not in use.

For detailed RV fire safety information, please visit the MFS website [here](#)

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