

Media Release



Don't let your Australia Day BBQ fizzle out

Friday, 24 January 2020

Ahead of the Australia Day long weekend, South Australians are urged to check their barbecues before using them to avoid injury or property damage.

Each year, Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters respond to dozens of fires caused by poorly maintained barbecues and gas cylinders.

In 2019, there were 57 fires related to barbecues in South Australia, resulting in property damage and financial loss. Some of these fires were preventable.

Earlier this month, a Coromandel Valley house was destroyed in a \$550,000 fire believed to be linked to heat from a barbecue, igniting nearby combustible materials.

MFS Community Engagement Officer, Vinny Schar, said grease build-up and gas leaks from weathered hose lines are common causes of barbecue fires.

“People leave barbecues out in the weather and gas hose lines can deteriorate over time. Taking five minutes to physically check hose lines for any cracks or splits may save a life,” MFS Community Engagement Officer Schar said.

“When fat in the drip tray heats up, it can quickly ignite a bigger fire. Regularly clean the drip tray to prevent the build-up of fats and oils.”

Even though the weather this weekend is cooler than previous Australia Day weekends, CFS Director Preparedness Operations Brett Loughlin reminds the public restrictions apply when using a barbecue during the fire danger season.

“Make sure your gas, electric or solid fuel barbecue is clear of all flammable materials by at least four metres; that a person who is able to control the fire is present at the site of the fire until it is extinguished, and that a fire extinguisher is at hand,” CFS Director Preparedness Operations Loughlin said.

More MFS tips for using BBQs safely, including instructions on how to check for leaks, are available [here](#).

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

**For media enquiries telephone the
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