

BBQ FIRE SAFETY

Summer time is here and it encourages people to fire up the barbeque and cook outdoors – but did you know that Scottish Fire and Rescue Service firefighters attend incidents every year where barbeques have got out-of-hand?

- Make sure your barbeque site is flat and away from fences, trees and sheds.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby, in case of emergencies.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to start, or revive your barbeque – use only barbeque fire lighters or starter fuel on cold coals.
- Keep children and pets away from the cooking area and lighters, matches and fuel out of their reach.
- Don't leave the barbeque unattended.
- After cooking, make sure the barbeque is cool before trying to move it.
- Empty ashes on to bare soil or metal container with water, not straight into a bin.
- Finally – enjoy yourself, but don't drink too much alcohol if you're in charge of the barbeque.

Disposable Barbeques

If you do use a disposable barbeque:

- It is important that they are placed on an even surface on either bricks or paving slabs – not on top of grass or wooden surface.
- Place disposable BBQs well away from the house, shed or fences.
- Do not use disposable barbecues near or on public benches.
- If you're using a disposable BBQ ensure coals are completely out and it has cooled before putting it in the bin. To avoid starting a fire you should allow it to cool for several hours and carefully pour water over it to make sure it's out.

NEVER USE THEM IN A CONFINED SPACE – INDOORS OR WITHIN A CARAVAN OR TENT. CARBON MONOXIDE WILL BE PRODUCED AND IT HAS KILLED UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE BEFORE.

Do you have a gas barbeque?

Follow these extra tips if you are using a gas barbeque:

- Read the manufacturer's instructions about how to check for leaks in the cylinder or pipework, e.g. brushing soapy water around all joints and looking for bubbles.
- Make sure your barbeque is in good working order.
- Make sure the tap is off before changing the gas cylinder and do it in the open air.
- Don't over-tighten joints.
- When you have finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the barbeque controls - this means any gas in the pipeline will be used up.

Storing gas cylinders

Don't ever keep more cylinders than you need. Gas cylinders should be kept outside, away from direct sunlight and frost. It is not advisable to keep cylinders inside the home in case of leaks or their explosive reaction if involved in a fire.