BARBEQUE SAFETY

Summer is fast approaching and that means firing up the barbeque and enjoying time with friends and family in the backyard. Unfortunately, every year many people get hurt using barbeques from fires, explosions, burns and other incidents.

Fire and Smoke Hazards

Compressed gas cylinders (i.e., propane) can be very dangerous. Fires or explosions can and do occur. You need to know inspect and troubleshoot your barbeque, switch off fuel supplies, quench/smother fires, and call the fire department.

Prevention:

- Always use the correct type of gas. Never use the wrong fuel in a charcoal barbeque. The data/registration plate on the barbeque will tell you the proper type of fuel to use.
- Never barbeque indoors or in confined areas (e.g., under low roofs). The smoke and fumes can be harmful and you could easily start a fire if the food or barbeque bursts into flames.
- Barbequing in an enclosed space could also lead to building up carbon monoxide, which can be lethal.
- Inspect and clean your barbeque at the start of each season.
- Know how to safely change your propane cylinder.
- Make sure you use legal cylinders (<10 yrs) and get them filled by qualified attendants.
- Always light the barbeque with the lid open to prevent gas buildup.
- Make sure the grill is turned off and gas cylinder is closed after using the barbeque.
- Keep children and pets away from the barbeque.
- If you suspect damaged or corroded pipes, a leak, smell an odour, or hear a high-pitched whistling noise, turn off the cylinder valve immediately and contact a licensed professional.

Using wire bristle brushes

Keeping your barbeque clean is very important. However, incidents have occurred where wire bristles from brushes get dislodged, caught in food and then accidentally swallowed. Because the body will not digest metal, it is possible for serious effects including the need for medical intervention (e.g., surgery).

Prevention:

- Discard old and worn metal brushes
- Use nylon or brushes made of other materials
- Carefully inspect the grill after cleaning to check for wire bristles.
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