



# BBQS, GAS BOTTLES AND GAS SAFETY

**A BBQ is one of the most common inclusions at community events, and because of this gas bottle explosions and gas leaks are two common risks. This fact sheet will help you understand best practice around BBQs, gas bottles and gas safety, as well as Council's requirements around set-up and Total Fire Ban (TFB) days.**

## **BBQs, Council Requirements**

- Only gas operated BBQs and spit roast appliances are permitted.
- Council requires that event organisers place oil matting under BBQs and spit roasters to ensure that the surface is protected, this includes grass.
- No modified, charcoal or solid fuel BBQs are permitted.
- BBQs must not be operated within 4.5m of any overhanging branches or ground foliage unless covered by a marquee/shelter.
- Permanent BBQs located within parks and reserves area cannot be booked for exclusive use.

## **Planning for TFB Days**

- Some Council sites do not allow events or activities to operate on days that have been declared TFB days, this includes all bushland reserves, such as Blackburn Lake. If your event site is closed due to a TFB, Council will not give permission for the event to run on that day.
- On TFB days, BBQs and spit roasters can only be used if prior permission has been sought and granted by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB). See [mfb.vic.gov.au](http://mfb.vic.gov.au). A copy of the MFB approval letter will need to be submitted to Council.

## **Gas Safety and Best Practice**

- Gas bottles must be stored securely within the BBQ unit or inside a milk crate.
- The gas line connection should be tested prior to operation (soapy water test: [www.esv.vic.gov.au/campaigns/barbecue-safety-look-before-you-cook/](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au/campaigns/barbecue-safety-look-before-you-cook/))
- An ABE fire extinguisher (4.5kg and current) must be located next to the BBQ.
- Ensure all rubbish and combustible materials are kept at a safe distance from the LPG containers.
- If you smell LPG gas, turn off the BBQ, shut off the supply at the source and clear the area. When safe, retry the soapy water test to identify the location of the leak and fix as required.
- Operation of any BBQ/spit roaster using LP Gas must comply with the Code of Practice for the Safe Use of LP Gas at Public Events in Victoria. Refer to Appendix A - Gas Safety Checklist attached to the Code of Practice: [www.esv.vic.gov.au](http://www.esv.vic.gov.au) for details.

### **Top Tip – Emergency planning**

Always have a qualified first aid person onsite and fully stocked first aid kit available.

- Have plans in place to evacuate your event site if required
- Always call 000 if an emergency situation arises at your event.
- Have someone meet the emergency services vehicle at the gate and walk them into position.



Questions? Please contact the Events Officer on 9262 6352 or [arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au](mailto:arts@whitehorse.vic.gov.au)