

Media Release

Energy Safe Victoria

16 March, 2022

ESV investigates gas explosion that leaves man with life-threatening injuries

Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) is investigating the reported explosion of an LPG cylinder used for cooking, which has left a man with life-threatening burns in the Alfred hospital.

The CFA and Victoria Police are also investigating the incident, which took place at an Ardmona property just after 3.30pm yesterday.

The man, believed to be in his 30s, was airlifted to the Alfred hospital after suffering burns to up to 35 per cent of his body with suspected internal injuries.

While the cause of the incident is yet to be confirmed, ESV, Victoria's energy safety regulator, is reminding Victorians to check that their barbecue gas bottle connections are safe before using.

ESV's *Know the Drill Before You Grill* campaign aims to inform Victorians about a few simple safety tips that will help avoid the dangers of damaged, old or loose LP gas cylinder connections, causing fires and putting lives and property at risk.

Barbecue-related incidents are more common than most think with Fire Rescue Victoria and the CFA receiving a combined 63 calls relating to barbecue-related fires across the state during 2020-21.

Most fires caused by gas leaks can be avoided by simply using a plastic bottle filled with soapy water, which can be squirted on the cylinder connection after turning the gas on. This test should be conducted every time the barbecue is used.

If no bubbles appear, you're safe to cook. If you see bubbles, turn off the gas immediately and re-check the hose and connections to make sure they are tight. Re-test with soapy water, and if bubbles still form then turn off the gas, as your LP Gas cylinder or hose regulator assembly may need replacing.

Anyone using a barbecue is urged to inspect the hose for signs of perishing or cracking – if the hose is cracked or damaged, don't use the barbecue until the hose assembly has been replaced.

Details: esv.vic.gov.au/campaigns/barbecue-safety/

ESV Commissioner and Chairperson Marnie Williams

"While we are still investigating the incident, it's important for all Victorians to understand safety risks when using outdoor portable cooking equipment."

"A few simple safety steps can help you protect your family and your property."

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