

BBQ SAFETY FOR CAMPERS

Barbeques have been linked to several campsite deaths caused by carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide (CO) is a highly poisonous substance which is created when fuels such as gas and wood fail to combust fully due to a lack of oxygen. You can't see it, smell it or taste it, but it can kill quickly with almost no warning.

If you're planning on using a BBQ, whether it's gas, charcoal or disposable, make sure you don't put yourself at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Follow these top tips for BBQ safety:

- Never take a smouldering or lit BBQ into a tent, caravan or cabin. Even if you have finished cooking, your BBQ should remain outside as it will still give off fumes for some hours after use
- Never use a BBQ inside to keep you warm
- Never leave a lit BBQ unattended or while sleeping
- Place your cooking area well away from your tent. Always ensure there is an adequate supply of fresh air in the area where the BBQ is being used
- Only use your BBQ in accordance with the operating instructions



Remember the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning – headaches, dizziness, breathlessness, nausea, collapse and loss of consciousness.

If you're using a gas BBQ or gas camping equipment, follow these extra tips to help you stay safe:

- Check that the appliance is in good working order, undamaged and that hoses are properly attached and undamaged. If in doubt, get the hoses replaced or do not use it
- Make sure the gas taps are turned off before changing the gas cylinder and do so in the open air
- Don't over-tighten joints
- When you have finished cooking, turn off the gas cylinder before you turn off the BBQ controls – this means any gas in the pipeline will be used up
- Read the manufacturer's instructions about how to check for gas escapes from hoses or pipework, e.g. brushing leak detection solution around all the joints and look for bubbles
- Never take a gas stove, light or heater into a tent, caravan or cabin.

Take care this summer and don't put yourself or your family at risk.