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MAKE SNAGS THE ONLY THINGS TO BURN ON THE BBQ THIS SUMMER

BBQs are a great way to socialise and enjoy some fresh air, but care must be taken to avoid burns and other injuries.

AMA President, Dr Michael Gannon, said today that children and young people made up more than half of all people admitted to hospital with burns each year.

“BBQs are an Australian tradition, particularly over the summer months. They get people off the couch and away from the television,” Dr Gannon said.

“Unfortunately, every year children and adults suffer serious burns as a result of unattended, unmaintained, or poorly positioned BBQs.

“Leaking gas bottles or hoses can explode, and accelerants such as petrol or spirits should never be used to feed a fire.

“Care also needs to be taken around other outdoor cooking equipment, including smokers, pizza ovens, and spit roasters.”

More than 8000 people were admitted to Australian hospitals with burns in 2013-14, with twice as many males than females suffering injuries.

“It’s important to regularly maintain and clean your outdoor cooking equipment, including removing any build-up from previous use, and checking the gas bottle, regulator, and hose for any leaks,” Dr Gannon said.

“When cooking on the BBQ, ensure it is placed in a well-ventilated space, away from any other potentially flammable objects.

“Check weather warnings and fire risk ratings, and reconsider your BBQ plans on particularly hot or windy days.”

If someone does sustain a burn, it is important to remain calm and commence first aid. Remove clothing or jewellery from the area that is burned, and treat the burn with cool running water for 20 minutes. Cover the burn area with cling wrap or clean cloth, and seek medical attention immediately.

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