



Across Australia many are experiencing devastating bushfires. To help prepare communities as a bushfire approaches Elgas has published safety tips for BBQ and home gas bottles.

BBQ gas bottle safety tips for bushfires

Always follow the directions of Fire Authorities who are in control while the fire event is underway.

1. Make sure the BBQ gas bottle is turned off (clockwise) at the valve on top of the bottle
2. Detach the gas bottle from the BBQ. Remember, it's reverse thread so turn the knob clockwise to loosen and remove.
3. Always ensure the gas bottle remains upright at all times. This enables the pressure relief valve to operate correctly to release pressure and minimise any chance of explosion.
4. Place the gas bottle away from any flammable materials, in a well-ventilated area and clear any ignition sources e.g. leaves. If there is an ignition source nearby the venting gas may ignite.
5. Once the bottle is removed from the BBQ, make sure the Pressure Relief Valve is pointed well away from anything combustible. For reference, the Pressure Relief Valve points in the opposite direction from where you screw in your hose connection to the cylinder.
6. Ensure that there are no gas bottles stored indoors or underneath the property

We don't recommend throwing gas bottles into a body of water. After the event cylinders are often lost or forgotten becoming a hidden hazard. Many people have been seriously injured or killed boating, water skiing, diving into water, using machinery, etc. when they hit obstacles they don't expect to be there. Cylinders can also float into positions where the effectiveness of their inbuilt safety features are compromised.



Home gas bottle safety tips for bushfires

Always follow the directions of Fire Authorities who are in control while the fire event is underway.

For residences that have 45kg or larger home gas bottles or cylinders, here are five safety tips to undertake before the fire arrives or before evacuating:

1. Turn it off (in clockwise direction) at valve on top of the bottle
2. Leave the bottle or cylinder where it has been installed
3. Leave the bottle or cylinder in an upright position
4. Ensure it is secured to a solid structure and on a solid base to prevent it falling over, with the Pressure Relief Valve vent facing away from building. The vent is the protrusion, usually with a dust cover, that is opposite of where the gas line screws into the valve.
5. Remove any combustible materials surrounding the gas bottles

Please ensure you:

1. Never move an LPG bottle inside a house or structure, as it can be a hazard to fire fighters
2. Never lay it on its side
3. Never cover it with wet material to it keep cool. These materials may dry out and burn, heating the bottle/cylinder

When you return home:

- Ensure all supply valves and appliances are turned off if safe to do so
- Do not attempt to start any LPG appliance, or turn supply back on, until the installation is checked by a gasfitter.
- If your cylinders are heat or fire damaged ELGAS will replace them without cost
- If cylinders have fallen or are upturned, do not attempt to move them, contact ELGAS on 131 161
- If you can hear or smell LPG turn cylinders off if safe to do so and call ELGAS on 131 161 or a licensed gas fitter. Stay well clear of the installation keep any sources of ignition away.