

FIRE SAFETY NOT A PRIORITY FOR UK'S BARBECUE LOVERS

Submitted by: Golin

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Survey for National BBQ Week reveals UK's ignorance of garden fire risks

National BBQ Week may tempt the UK's outdoor chef's into the garden but 89% of them could be risking a serious accident or worse according to a survey conducted by Kidde Safety.

Research among 1000 homeowners in the UK showed that despite over 1500 fire related accidents in the garden each year*, fire safety was only fourth on the list of common dangers in the garden.

In response to the survey findings, Kidde have compiled a list of Top Five Safety Tips:

- Make sure you have a working fire extinguisher close at hand and that you know how to use it should the need arise
- Never attempt to light a BBQ using petrol or flammable liquids other than that recommended specifically for BBQs
- Ensure the BBQ is set up in a sheltered spot as wind can blow embers off the BBQ, causing fires. Never try and move a BBQ once alight
- Be aware of flammable materials close to the BBQ such as decking or fencing
- Remember that your BBQ will still be hot after use and make sure the BBQ is cold before packing it away

38% of respondents felt accidents involving garden tools were of most concern and injuries related to garden machinery were the most prevalent according to 22% of those surveyed.

The growing popularity of BBQ's was illustrated by the fact that over half the respondents said that they had lit some kind of fire in the garden but worryingly, only 13% have access to a fire extinguisher.

The trend among younger householders was also a concern as only 11% of 25-34 year olds had access to a fire extinguisher. Despite the popularity of al fresco dining among the younger part of the population, it appears that safety is not uppermost in their minds. In contrast, the 45-54 age range were significantly more safety conscious with 20 per cent having a fire extinguisher close to hand.

By not recognising the need for a fire extinguisher in the garden, householders are taking unnecessary risks, according to Kidde Safety. Kevin Bishop, Director of Sales and Marketing, said: "It's a real worry that the danger of fire in the garden is not recognised and it's careless to assume that it won't happen to you. Fire extinguishers are inexpensive, need little maintenance and are much easier to use than people realise. By using a fire extinguisher to tackle a fire in its early stages, people should be aware that they can potentially avert serious injury or even death."

Kidde Safety has a range of fire extinguishers starting at £9.98 available in B&Q, Costco, Argos and

selected Boots stores.

* HASS-LASS Home and leisure accident figures, 2002

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Notes to Editors:

Research conducted by TNS – sample of 1,000 people.

Kidde is a leading global supplier of fire and safety products, systems and services under a range of well-known and trusted brand names to the retail, industrial, commercial, aerospace and combustion control sectors. It has over 90 years of experience in fire protection.

For further information, please visit www.kidde.com.

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