

Safety Alert

Restaurant patrons injured in gas related incident

The purpose of this Safety Alert is to remind restaurants, café's, food vendors and domestic gas appliance users of the importance of only using approved gas appliances and following all safety instructions included with the gas appliance or associated gas cartridges.

Background

Five patrons were injured, some seriously, when gas ignited at a Darwin restaurant in September 2022. The patrons were part of a group cooking their meal on a barbeque appliance that was inserted into the table which utilised both a butane gas cartridge and charcoal as the fuel source. At the time of the incident the patrons were cooking with charcoal as the fuel source for the barbeque.

The constant radiant heat from the burning charcoal may have caused the butane gas in the cartridge to expand and overpressure, activating the cartridge's Countersink Release Vent (CRV) safety device. This released the cartridge's butane gas content which ignited causing the injuries.



Image: The barbeque appliance used in the incident. **Insert 1.** The vented cartridge compartment. **Insert 2.** The release vents are exposed on the gas cartridge indicating the CRV safety device activated.

Possible contributing factors

- The setup of the barbeque appliance (see diagram below) may not have been compatible with the butane gas cartridge as:

- The warning label on the gas cartridge advised not to operate the cartridge within 400mm of any other appliance or combustible materials.
- The distance between the charcoal reservoir and the vented gas cartridge compartment was 40mm.
- Information on the gas cartridge also warned that subjecting the cartridge to constant high temperatures may result in the cartridge rupturing.
- The barbeque appliance, which may have been imported into Australia, did not have an approval notice to state it was authorised for use in Northern Territory, as required by the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1985.

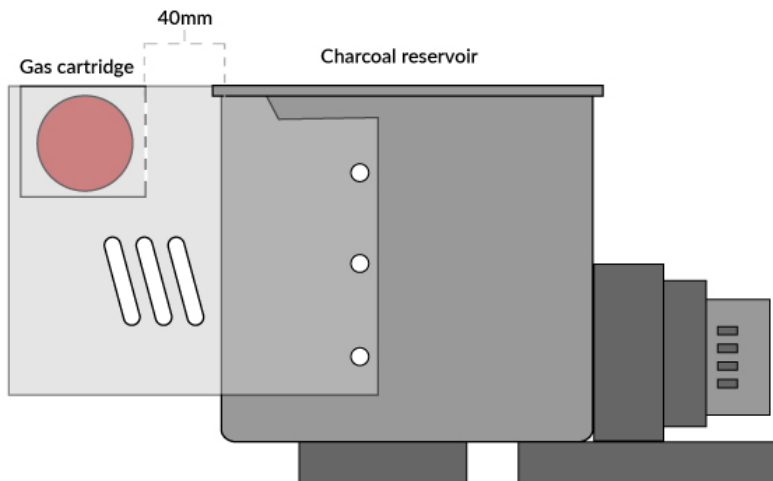


Image: A diagram of the barbecue appliance showing the distance from the charcoal reservoir and the gas cartridge compartment.

Action required

- All gas appliances must either comply with [AS2658 - LP Gas – portable and mobile appliances](#), or be approved by the Australian Gas Association, or the Australian Liquefied Petroleum Gas Association or NT WorkSafe before use in the Northern Territory as per the [Regulation 189 of the Dangerous Goods Regulations 1985](#).
 - Custom built gas appliances made from approved components must also be submitted for assessment and be approved before use.
- Follow all manufacturer's instructions before using any gas appliance, this includes the manufacturer's instructions for any fuel source such as gas cartridges.
- Safely remove any gas cartridges from the appliance if another fuel source, like charcoal, is being used.

Further information

For further information, please refer to the following:

Safety Alerts

- [Safety warning on portable butane gas cookers](#)

Disclaimer

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