



FACT

Between 2000 and 2005 the NSWFB responded to 366 fires resulting in 35 fire-related injuries involving caravans, campers and recreational vehicles. (Source NSWFB Statistics)

Unfamiliar surroundings, poor preparation and lack of attention to detail can quickly result in a fire. Simple precautions, prioritising, pre-planning and care can help ensure you have a safe and relaxing holiday (as at 05/07/2006).

TIPS FOR SAFER CARAVANING AND CAMPING

The NSW Fire Brigades recommends this simple safety checklist to assist you to have a safer holiday.

- When planning to use a caravan ensure that you turn off any pilot lights before towing or when the towing vehicles engine is running.
- Install a smoke alarm with a hush button close to the sleeping area in a caravan as well as having a fire extinguisher and fire blanket near the exit.
- Develop a fire escape plan that considers all occupants of a caravan.
- At camp sites familiarise yourself with any fire routines or equipment installed.
- Ensure that all electrical and gas equipment fitted is tested and in good working order.
- Gas cylinders on caravans should be external, secure and with valves facing away from the van.
- Check the connections after driving on country roads.
- Keep heaters away from the internal fittings in caravans.
- Have a portable radio to keep updated regarding weather conditions and fire restrictions that may be in force.
- Never leave children or pets unattended in a caravan or tent.
- Never cook or smoke in tents and consider buying a flame retardant tent.
- Locate camp fires downwind and a safe distance from any tents.
- Turn off any lanterns and extinguish camp fires before going to bed.
- Never leave cooking unattended and always secure any matches and lighters.
- On arrival at a campsite locate a safe refuge place in case of a bushfire.

A COLLABORATION OF THE NSW FIRE BRIGADES, NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE,
ACT FIRE BRIGADE AND ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE

OTHER SAFETY TIPS

- Remember that LPG is flammable, heavier than air and may remain in areas for some time.
- Don't park your car or tow vehicle in long dry grass.
- Use alcohol responsibly when camping or caravanning.
- Check for gas leaks using soapy water only.
- Never put flammable liquids on campfires.
- For additional information refer to Fact Sheet No. 16 – General Barbeque Safety.