

Safety Alert

Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate

Safety Alert No. 49
27 June 2011

Gas-appliance fire in commercial kitchen

Incident

On 21 June 2011, two hotel employees were burnt in a gas-appliance fire in a commercial kitchen.

The employees had moved a deep fryer so that they could clean behind it. In doing so, they inadvertently ruptured the flexible gas hose supplying gas to the fryer, releasing gas into the kitchen. The escaping gas was then ignited, probably by a nearby kitchen appliance.

The incident is still under investigation by the Petroleum and Gas Inspectorate, but preliminary findings are given below.



Preliminary findings

- The deep fryer had been installed to slide or roll out for servicing and cleaning, but the gas-appliance restraining device attached to the rear of the fryer was not anchored securely to the wall and had become detached.
- The device was restrained only by a flexible gas hose.
- When the fryer was moved, tension was placed on the gas hose, causing it to rupture and release gas.
- The gas supply to the fryer was not turned off before moving the device.
- An uncontrolled gas leak resulted and eventually ignited.

Recommendations

1. That the gas supply to a gas appliance be turned off before cleaning the appliance or the surrounding area.
2. That restraining devices for gas appliances be secured in a manner fit for purpose.
3. That the owners of commercial kitchens check that all gas appliances over 20 kg, and designed to slide or roll out for servicing, have a restraining device fitted.
4. That owners of gas appliances consider installing an easily accessible master gas-isolation point to shut down all gas supply to the kitchen in an emergency.
5. That commercial gas-appliance installations be routinely inspected and serviced to ensure safe operation.

For further information, please contact:

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