**Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Bottle Ignition**

**April 2013**

**Issue/Incident:**

* A contractor delivering a cooking demonstration to Department employees was injured after coming into contact with flames from a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) bottle attached to a small gas cooker. When the contractor lit the cooker the bottle ignited and flared.
* As a result of the incident the contractor sustained third degree burns to his hands and arms as well as injuries to his face, eyes and lungs.

**Factors/Risks to Consider:**

* Failure to complete a Safe Work Method Statement for the task which included assessing the equipment the contractor brought into the workplace to use as part of the task.
* Modification of the LPG bottle which made it unsafe for use.
* Absence of a fire blanket inside the kitchen to smother the flame when it first ignited.

**Recommendations:**

Workplaces should implement the following controls in relation to the use of LPG Bottles:

* Ensure that LPG bottles are only used in accordance with the manufacturer’s/supplier’s instructions and that no modifications are made.
* Where a **contractor** is performing a potentially high risk task such as LPG bottle use, ensure a [Safe Work Method Statement Template](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU_24-2-1_Safe_Work_Method_Statement_Template.doc) is completed.
* Where an **employee** is performing a potentially high risk task such as LPG bottle use, ensure a risk assessment is completed using the [Task Based Risk Management Form](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU_04-3-1Task_Based_Risk_Management_Form.doc).
* Ensure that fire blankets are installed next to all stoves in the workplace and that the location is clearly signed.
* Ensure that an OHS induction is conducted using the DEECD [Contractor Induction Checklist](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU-24-5-1_Contractor_Induction_Checklist.doc) with all contractors coming into the workplace.
* Develop an [Approved Contractor List](http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edulibrary/public/ohs/DEE_EHU-24-3-1_Approved_Contractor_List.doc) using DEECD’s template.
* Contact the workplace’s fire protection service provider to review the type and location of fire extinguishers required in the workplace.

**Further Information:**

Further information can be obtained from DEECD’s [Health, Safety and WorkSafe](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/governance/Pages/healthworksafe.aspx) website or by contacting the DEECD OHS Advisory Service on **1300 074 715** or e-mail safety@edumail.vic.gov.au.