

Use of improvised liquid or gas fuel stoves (including Penny Stoves)

We recently had incident where a Scout Group had decided to make improvised liquid fuel stoves as part of a survival themed activity. These stoves were constructed from empty aluminium cans and are sometimes referred to as “Penny Stoves”.

These improvised stoves are fuelled with methylated spirits and are used for cooking in a similar way to a commercially manufactured Trangia burner.

Unfortunately, the stoves produced were low quality and there were some leakages of fuel. Further, when one of the stoves was being refilled a flame flashed back to the fuel bottle which understandably startled a youth member.

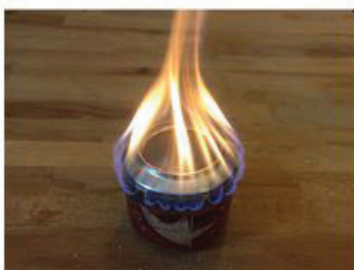
The youth member accidentally kicked a stove with their foot which splashed ignited methylated spirit onto two other Scouts. One of our Scouts sustained serious burns that required specialist treatment including a skin graft.

Trangia stoves are already part of our program and provide the same output whilst being safer because of their inbuilt safety features including the extinguishing ring and windshield.

This bulletin is a reminder of the dangers of using liquid fuel stoves and particular about the protocols for refuelling burners given the pale blue flame that is difficult to see. We recommend using a closed simmer ring to ensure the flame has been completely extinguished before refuelling and using a fuel bottle fitted with a safety valve.

As of today the use of any improvised liquid or gas fuel stoves is prohibited in Scouting.

If you have any questions contact sc.risk@scoutsvictoria.com.au



**Improved
Penny Stove**



Trangia Stove



**Fuel Bottle with
safety valve**



**Simmer Ring
in closed position**