

Improvised Liquid Fuel Stoves



With immediate effect Scouts NSW is prohibiting the use of improvised liquid fuel stoves, including but not limited to penny stoves (see left). This prohibition does not extend to commercially purchased “Trangia” type stoves (see below).

Recently a Scout Unit, as part of the program endeavoured to build methylated spirits fuel stoves. The idea for the stove had been found on the internet and is often referred to as a penny stove. When a leader added additional fuel, assuming that the stove was not alight, the fuel ignited leading to a youth member suffering significant burns. The youth member was admitted to hospital for treatment.

Liquid fuel stoves, like all camping stoves, present a number of dangers which users must be aware of and manage appropriately. Introducing improvised stoves increases the potential risk as they can, and often do, behave unexpectedly when used. For this reason the use of improvised liquid fuel stoves is now prohibited.

All Scout Groups are requested to check whether they have any such stoves in use, or in storage and, if found, to safely dispose/destroy them so that they can no longer be used.

“Trangia” type commercially available stoves may still be used in a Scouting environment. To minimise the dangers associated with these stoves, make sure to:

- Practice using the stove in a safe, supervised environment, before taking it into the field for an activity
- Set up and light the stove as per the manufacturer’s instructions
- Only use the stove in an outside environment with the stove positioned away from tents on level firm ground where it cannot be knocked over
- Use a purpose-made fuel bottle with a safety valve to carry the fuel
- Before adding fuel check that the flame has been extinguished and that the stove is cool to the touch
- Confirm that the stove is alight (or extinguished) by placing your hand above the stove. If there is no heat being emitted the stove is extinguished
- To extinguish the flame, use the supplied extinguishing cap
- Only fill the stove with enough fuel for your cooking requirements and where possible, avoid transporting the stove with fuel in the tank



Failure to comply with this or previous Safety Notices may result in a review of a person’s membership.

<https://scoutsnsw.au/safetynotices>