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Safety first before firing up the BBQ

With the Easter holiday season about to get underway, it's timely to remind people to check their gas bottles and fittings before firing up the barbecue.

Member for Ipswich Ms Rachel Nolan today urged Queenslanders to inspect their gas bottles thoroughly before using them.

"If there's any sign of rust or damage, dispose of the bottle safely and get a new one," Ms Nolan said.

"Contact your local council tip or a gas cylinder test station for details of safe disposal.

"Barbecue fittings and hoses should also be checked for any signs of fraying, cracking or splitting.

"You can check for gas leaks by brushing fittings with a soapy water solution after disconnecting and reconnecting any cylinders or gas hoses and equipment. Leaks will show up as bubbles," she said.

Minister for Mines and Energy Geoff Wilson urged people to take particular care when transporting gas cylinders.

"New regulations that come into effect next month will make it safer for people to transport gas bottles," Mr Wilson said.

"From 1 April, all LPG suppliers must fit screw plugs in the outlets of filled gas cylinders to reduce the risk of leakages," he said.

"Make sure gas cylinders remain upright during transportation and avoid extreme heat, such as leaving a cylinder in the sun," he said.

"In particular, 9 kg cylinders (the ones used in caravans) must only be transported for the purpose of filling.

"Once you've reached your destination, remove the gas cylinder from the vehicle as soon as possible," he said.

Minister Wilson said people should use reputable outlets for filling or exchanging gas bottles and never fill their own gas bottles.