



SAFETY CIRCULAR 04/2021

File: D21524

July 2021

Check Your Drip Torches for Asbestos!

Key Message

The wicks on early model drip torches have been found to likely contain asbestos. All Stations and BGUs should check their drip torches and contact Health and Safety Services if any wicks are found to likely contain asbestos. The Firebug 4 and 5 Litre Drip Torches currently issued by DFES are shown below, the use of other Drip torches is not supported by DFES.



What's been happening?

The interchangeable wick found on earlier model drip torches are believed to have been manufactured with an asbestos rope wick until the early 1980's. Newer models use a stone or glass fibre wick. An example of the asbestos containing wick is shown on the left below in red, and the newer stone and glass fibre wicks to the right in green. It has been identified that wicks containing asbestos may still be in use at some BGU's.



Target Audience: All CFRS, VFRS, VFES and BFS Personnel				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
SC-04-21	Issue Date:	Valid Until:	Contact:	Health and Safety Services
Page 1 of 2	Jul 2021	July 2022	hss@dfes.wa.gov.au	

What do I need to do?

DFES Personnel and Emergency Services Volunteers are required to visually inspect all drip torches currently in use or in storage. If a drip torch is located which you suspect may contain an asbestos wick, contact Health and Safety Services (HSS) on 9395 9471 for further advice and do not handle the drip torch until approved by HSS.

All Stations and Volunteer BGU's must report to their District or Area Officer by close of business 23 August 2021 to confirm the check has been completed and remedial action as advised by HSS has been undertaken.

Replacement wicks can be ordered through the Fire and Rescue Safety Australia (FRSA) online portal, part number 14565 FB PN106 Ignition Wick.

Further information

If approved by HSS to handle suspect wicks, ensure you are wearing the correct personal protective clothing (PPC) and follow decontamination procedures in accordance with [SOP 3.17.2 - Asbestos](#). Disposal of asbestos must be in accordance with asbestos disposal requirements. For more information see the Asbestos Controlled waste fact sheet [here](#).

Contact HSS@dfes.wa.gov.au if you have any queries.

CRAIG WATERS AFSM
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

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Page 2 of 2	Jul 2021	Jul 2022	hss@dfes.wa.gov.au	