



media release

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Experts warn against using BBQ embers as heating source

Bringing the leftover embers of a BBQ into a living area could have disastrous consequences for families, experts from NSW Poisons are warning. Within the last few weeks, the Poisons centre has handled several cases of families presenting after using their leftover BBQ embers as a heating source.

"Past experience, both here and overseas, has been that mild to severe carbon monoxide poisoning results when this practice occurs," says Dr. Naren Gunja, Medical Director of NSW Poisons.

The most common scenario is that families will take the embers from a BBQ after they finish cooking to keep their home or tent warm for the night. While these may warm the area for a short period, they also can cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

"Families are warned that young children are even more susceptible to severe poisoning. There was also a case of a foetal death at 7 months gestation due to carbon monoxide poisoning because of BBQ embers being brought into a living space. People need to be aware of the dangers," Dr Gunja said. The embers are better disposed appropriately and not brought into confined spaces.

For interviews with Dr. Naren Gunja, please call:

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The NSW Poisons Information Centre at The Children's Hospital at Westmead

NSW Poisons provides high quality, up-to-date and evidence-based information regarding the risk assessment, management and treatment of human poisoning to the general public and health care professionals, across New South Wales 24 hours a day on **13 11 26**.

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