

21 June 2018



Kettle scalding on school trip

3 pupils from Fife had to be taken to hospital recently suffering from serious scald injuries after being sprayed by boiling water from a "Kelly Kettle" (image 1). The incident is currently under investigation, but initial findings suggest that the kettle had been boiled whilst the stopper was in the water spout. This caused a build-up of pressure within the kettle which in-turn exploded covering the 3 pupils in boiling water.

"Kelly Kettle" guidance states that water should never be boiled with the stopper / plug / bung in the water spout as this could create a build-up of pressure. This may cause the stopper to be ejected at force followed by a fountain of boiling water. Staff, Pupils and Service Users could suffer serious injuries if the Kelly Kettle is used inappropriately. Staff should always obey the warning sign on the "Kelly Kettle" ensure that the stopper / plug / bung is out of the spout prior to heating. This type of sealed "Kelly Kettle" should either be removed from service permanently or the orange bung (image 1) replaced with the manufacturers green pressure release/whistle bung (image 3).

The alternative design "Ghillie Kettle" (image 2) is used daily by many EAC schools and early childhood centres; it is designed for use with the metal cap ON, as pressure escapes through the whistle, alerting the user that water has boiled. Managers must ensure that only pressure release design outdoor kettles are used.

Any managers with staff that use outdoor kettles should review their current procedures, remove any sealable bung kettles from service and confirm that staff are fully aware how to use their kettle in a safe manner. Risk Assessments must be reviewed to include this risk and ensure that any staff training highlights the danger. If used correctly Outdoor Kettles are safe and appropriate for use in an outdoor learning environment.

Image 1 (Kelly Kettle)



Image 2 (Ghillie Kettle)



Image 3 (PR Bung)



If further advice or assistance is required, please contact the Health and Safety Helpdesk. Contact details are available on the intranet under the health and safety pages.

Safety Flashes contain critical safety instruction that must be immediately actioned. Line Managers are responsible for bringing this information to the attention of those employees not on e-mail.



East Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air an Ear

Teamwork is the key to a safer workplace