

Caravan Fire Safety Message for “Grey Nomads”

Wherever one travels in Australia beyond the urban fringe, the sight of “grey nomads” towing their caravans or driving their motor homes is a common place phenomenon. Caravan and



Caravan on fire - within 1 minute after being lit

free parks around the country are the recipients of convoys of caravanners undertaking a slow determined rite of passage around Australia. For the time that they are on the road, all call their caravan home.

Like any home, the threat of fire is omnipresent, but unlike a house, caravans are particularly susceptible to fire with their

reliance on LPG in cylinder form for cooking, heating and lighting.

Their internal components are thought to react badly to fire by producing a range of toxic gases that would quickly asphyxiate any occupants even before a full-blown fire took hold.

Recently the NSW Fire Brigades through its Fire Investigation and Research Unit (FIRU),



Caravan on fire - 10 minutes later



Caravan on fire - within 15 minutes of being lit

teamed with the Caravan and Camping Magazine, and TestSafe Australia to test the impact of an internal fire on caravan components.

A fully-equipped registered van was installed in a controlled environment at TestSafe's fire ground, and set up with temperature gauges, smoke alarms, microphones and cameras to record the impact of a deliberately lit fire.

Once lit, the fire spread rapidly inside the caravan, and within a minute smoke deriving from burning internal fittings was billowing out of the windows. It is unlikely that any occupant could survive this intensity of smoke.

In a very short time the caravan was engulfed in flame and eventually burnt down to the chassis.

The temperature gauges registered 200 degrees centigrade at bed level.

It is intended that a DVD on Caravan Fire Safety will be produced from this exercise and distributed through the CARAVAN and CAMPER Magazine to caravan owners and parks.