

Using Kelly Kettles

The Issue.

A Duke of Edinburgh candidate was scalded by a jet of hot water and steam from a 'Kelly Kettle' cooking stove. The stove had been used and brought to a high heat with the 'bung' in place. This incident appears to have been a fortunately uncommon occurrence in the UK with groups as yet. With the rising popularity of wild camping and bushcraft, the 'Kelly Kettle' is now more commonly seen in use with groups and youngsters.

Whilst a very efficient stove with cheap (free!) and green fuels, it presents different risks to other camping stoves. Whilst meths and petrol stoves have obvious volatile fuel problems, the 'Kelly Kettle' seems more easily managed but does have some key safety guidelines.

The Outcome.

There are ways of avoiding similar accidents, and key safety advice is supplied with the stove and freely available on the manufacturers website at <http://www.kellykettle.com/how-to-use-the-kelly-kettle>

Training points.

- They should always be used with the bung out : some users remove the bung from the kettle altogether. The maker states *“Always remove the stopper/cork before lighting the kettle. The stopper/cork is only to be used for transporting cold water. Boiling the kettle with ANY obstruction in the water spout can result in a serious scald for the user or others in close proximity.”*
- These stoves are only stable if carefully placed on level ground.
- The stove should be placed in the open where sparks and flame from the chimney do not pose a risk of starting a fire or burning people.
- Do not overfill the stove with fuel from above, or allow the kettle to boil dry.
- Do not hold the handle above the chimney when lit as it may burn the user. A rag or oven mitt is most useful.
- Carefully extinguish the fire after use and have surplus water available.

Avoidance.

The major hazard is one of scalds and burns. Thorough training and careful supervision of inexperienced users will prevent problems. Experience reduces the chance of accidents.

The use of the bung/stopper needs to be carefully explained. The simple option is to remove it when the stove is being used by inexperienced youngsters or in situations where direct supervision is not possible.