

Laceration and amputation as a result of transporting plant (barbecue).

This alert highlights the risk(s) of serious injury, even when undertaking a relatively simple task such as transporting a barbecue.

BACKGROUND

Two students were transporting a barbecue when one of the leg sets fell off the unit. As a result, the student had difficulties holding the unexpected increase in weight, resulting in contact that caused severe lacerations and the loss of the tip of a finger.

- **Injuries sustained:** severe laceration resulting in the loss of the tip of a finger
- **Damage to plant and equipment:** None
- **Environment:** None

CAUSE OF INCIDENT

It was determined that the flat head (hand tightened) screws used to hold the legs in place were loose. When the barbecue was then lifted over a step the legs came off. (Refer to photos 1, 2 & 3).



Photo 1: hand tightened flat head screws used to hold on the barbecue legs



Photo 2: Leg set that fell out



Photo 3: Example of hand tightened flat head screw

WHAT WAS DONE WELL

- Students involved, attending First Aid officers, Security and FM cleaning staff were on site immediately to render assistance and redirect the heavy pedestrian traffic away from the area,
- Emergency services were on site quickly to provide treatment.

ACTION FOR LOCAL AREAS TO TAKE

Local areas are required to check if they have barbecues that have removable legs which rely on hand tightened screw systems. If hand tightened systems are apparent, then the following actions need to be considered and/or taken (*refer to photos 3 & 4*):

- Consider contacting the manufacturer: advise of this issue and determine whether they have any further guidance. *In this instance the barbecue was made by F.U.N barbecues South Australia.*
- Consider modifications:
 - attach the legs in a more secure way (i.e. if not in place already, consider installing slot holes in the legs) or permanently bolting the legs in place,
 - if the legs are required to be removed frequently, then as part of your operational/maintenance process consider leg slot holes and ensure hand screws are properly tightened using a shifting spanner/wrench,
- Pre-purchase assessment: Before purchasing a barbecue, avoid types that may have this type of system.

**** Remember for any campus based emergencies, refer to the UNSW Emergency Flipchart (Figure 1) or call UNSW Security Services on x56666 ****



Figure 1: UNSW Emergency Flipchart ([click to access Security website](#))

Further information:

Contact your Faculty Health and Safety Coordinator safety.unsw.edu.au

Corresponding author for this alert: r.singhpanwar@unsw.edu.au