

# Stove Safety Instructions for Schools and Groups

## Expedition preparation

- Before setting out on expedition, always be familiar with the stove and fuel.
- Be confident in how to use the stove and what dangers are associated with it and the fuel.
- DofE participants and adults need to follow their Licensed Organisation's policies and the safety guidance given in this sheet.
- If using gas, always set off on expedition with full gas canisters. We recommend using any used/half empty canisters for future training sessions.

## Suitable location

- Take some time to pick the cooking location. A firm level surface at ground level where the stove will not be knocked over is ideal and it must be at least two metres away from flammable items/tents.
- Consider the weather conditions and wind direction. This Endurance Lava stove is designed to be stable and easily shields the source of heat from the wind but in extreme conditions, we'd recommend taking shelter behind a wall or rock.

## General stove safety

- Never use this stove indoors, or inside a tent. Always cook outside away from any obvious risk.
- Have water and a wet tea towel nearby, ready to use as a fire blanket. Always be careful to check if there is a flame or not, especially in bright sunlight.
- Never leave stove unattended or unwatched when alight.
- Make it clear to other people that stoves are lit/hot and get everything needed together before starting to cook. Have somewhere safe nearby to put hot pans.

## Gas burners & canisters

- DofE teams must never use a gas stove that does not use self-sealing canisters.
- This stove is designed for gas canisters with threaded valves according to EN417 containing propane/butane gas mixtures.
- Keep the cartridge away from the heat of the stove unit, by using the full length of hose.
- After use, ensure that the valve is fully shut (control knob turned fully clock-wise). There may be a slight delay between shutting the valve and the burner extinguishing.
- To change the canisters, shut the valve fully and be sure the flame is extinguished and no other flame is nearby.
- Remove canisters from the stove for journeying.

## Gel fuels (bio-ethanol)

- Do not fill gel burner over two thirds full.
- Never refill a lit or hot stove – the flame can be hard to see. Always check for heat – bubbling and a crackling noise indicates the gel is alight.
- Always refill from a small gel container, not a bulk container.
- Always keep unused fuel at least three metres away from the stove or any source of ignition and do not store in direct sunlight.

## Spirit burners and fuel (methylated spirits)

- The spirit fuel must be carried in bottles specifically designed for the purpose which have a screw top and a safety valve. We recommend Trangia fuel bottles with safety valves.
- Fill the stove spirit burner from the Trangia fuel bottle with safety valve, never from a bulk container such as a one gallon can or plastic container.
- Fuel should not be handled near tents or any naked flames; it is good practice to have a 're-fuelling' area where fuel is handled away from the designated cooking area.
- Take great care when re-fuelling the stove, make sure that the flame is completely extinguished (the flame can be invisible, especially in sunlight) and the stove/burner has cooled before removing the burner to re-fill it (take the burner to the fuel, not the fuel to the burner). If the burner is too hot to handle, it is too hot to fill.

