

February Safety Theme: BURN AWARENESS WEEK: Preventing Gasoline Burns
February 3 – 9, 2008

The South Carolina State Fire Marshal's Office joins the National Association of State Fire Marshals and the Shriners Hospitals for Children to recognize the week of February 3 – 9, 2008, as Burn Awareness Week. This year's focus is to prevent gasoline burn injuries, oftentimes caused from the improper use and storage of flammable liquids. Children 13 and older are in the highest at-risk group for gasoline and other flammable substance injuries and should be made aware of the dangers associated with its use.

The following safety tips are provided by the Shriners Hospitals for Children and should be shared with all family members, primarily those who have access to flammable liquids.

Gasoline Use:

- DO** remember that gasoline should only be used to fill the gasoline tank of a car, motorcycle, lawn mower, etc. Gasoline's only use is to fuel an engine!
- DO** keep in mind that a spark, flame or other source of heat can ignite gasoline vapors, even from many feet away.
- DON'T** use gasoline to light a barbecue grill or use it anywhere near a barbecue grill.
- DON'T** use gasoline to start or accelerate any kind of fire.
- DON'T** use gasoline as a solvent or cleaner.
- DON'T** experiment with gasoline in any way. A few minutes of experimentation could result in a lifetime of painful surgeries, disfiguring scars, or even death.
- DON'T** sniff or huff gasoline; it can cause brain damage or death.

Handling Gasoline:

- DO** handle gasoline responsibly at all times and only under adult supervision.
- DO** remember that an engine that is still warm can ignite gasoline vapors. Gasoline should only be added when an engine is completely cool.
- DON'T** allow younger children to touch gasoline or a gasoline container under any circumstances.
- DON'T** handle gasoline near a flame source, such as matches, lighters or pilot lights on stoves and water heaters.
- DON'T** handle gasoline indoors.
- DON'T** siphon gasoline by mouth. It is harmful or fatal if swallowed.
- DON'T** induce vomiting if gasoline is swallowed. Instead, seek immediate medical attention.

Storing Gasoline:

- DO** store gasoline only in an approved gasoline container.
- DO** store gasoline, or ask your parents to store it, in a well-ventilated outside storage area that is not attached to your home, such as a shed or garage, preferably in a locked cabinet. Be sure there are no ignition sources nearby.

DO make sure gasoline containers are out of reach of younger siblings or children.
DO keep only the minimum amount of gasoline required (generally, no more than a gallon).
DON'T store gasoline in a glass jar, milk jug or any other non-approved container.
DON'T keep gasoline anywhere inside a home or vehicle.
DON'T store gasoline near a source of heat or sparks, such as a hot water heater, furnace, clothes dryer or any appliance that uses a pilot light or may cause a spark.

About Gasoline Containers:

DO remind your parents to check gasoline containers for compliance with the ASTM F852 standard, which establishes performance requirements for portable gasoline containers intended for reuse by consumers. This compliance is indicated in writing on either side or the underside of all approved plastic gasoline containers.
DON'T put anything other than gasoline in a gasoline container.
DON'T drink anything out of a gasoline container.

Additional information for parents, caregivers, and children may be found at:
www.burnawarenessweek.org