



## Gasoline-Related Burns

- Nationally, burns caused by gasoline are the third leading cause of hospital admission for burns.
- Nearly 70 children between the ages of 5 to 14 years are admitted to specialized burn centers each year in Oklahoma due to gasoline-related burns.
- Flammable liquids (gasoline, kerosene, lighter fluid) are the leading cause of burns for this age group.
- Gasoline-related burns are often caused by gasoline being thrown on a fire or ignited by a match; this is a serious problem especially with young boys.
- Gasoline vapors are heavier than air and can flow invisibly along the ground for a considerable distance and be ignited by a flame or spark.
- Gasoline which has been spilled on clothes or a person's body can be ignited just by walking near a fire.
- Gasoline can produce vapors that can ignite at all temperatures, even at 45°F below zero. In comparison, charcoal lighter fluid does not produce fumes unless the temperature is over 160°F. (This is why gasoline should never replace lighter fluid to ignite fires.)

### Safety Tips for Younger Children

- Teach children:
  - never to use or play with gasoline or other flammable liquids;
  - about the hazardous properties of gasoline and other flammable liquids;
  - never to use or play with matches or lighters (elementary school-aged children are particularly fascinated with fire);
  - life-saving techniques like stop, drop, and roll.

### Gasoline Safety Tips for Older Children and Adults

- Never use gasoline to:
  - start or restart a fire;
  - clean greasy engine parts;
  - thin paint or clean brushes.
- Properly store gasoline:
  - use approved gasoline safety containers (non-approved containers can explode and leak the gasoline);
  - never store gasoline inside the home;
  - do not store gasoline near hot water tanks or furnaces in the garage.
- When fueling engines:
  - refuel lawnmowers and other engines only after they have cooled;
  - never refuel an engine if it is running or hot;
  - only refuel outside the home in a well-ventilated area.