

More than 100 people are severely injured or die from a gasoline-related burn in Oklahoma every year.

Many injuries happen in predictable, preventable ways.

Never use gasoline to start or restart a fire. Most gasoline fires involve bonfires and burning trash or brush.

Gasoline and Flammable Substance Safety

- Gasoline and flammable substances are involved in one-third of all burn center admissions and nearly one-fifth of all burn-related deaths in Oklahoma.
- Gasoline-related burns are often caused by gasoline being thrown on a fire or ignited by a match; this is a serious problem, usually involving bonfires, trash, or brush.
- 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 that has been spilled on clothes or a person's body can be ignited just by walking near a fire.
- It is illegal to burn trash in an area where trash collection services are available.
- Recycle, compost, and use tree clippings as mulch to reduce the use of brush fires.

Prevention

- Gasoline should never replace charcoal lighter fluid to ignite fires.
 - Gasoline can produce vapors that can ignite at all temperatures, even at 45°F below zero. In comparison, charcoal lighter fluid does not produce vapors unless the temperature is over 160°F.
- 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;
 - life-saving techniques like stop, drop, and roll.
- 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 lawn mowers and other engines only after they are off and have cooled;
 - only refuel outside the home in a well-ventilated area;
 - never re-enter your vehicle while fueling at a gas station.

Internet Resources

- www.nfpa.org (Search for "gasoline and propane")
- www.deq.state.ok.us/factsheets/local/openburn.pdf
- www.agecon.okstate.edu/waste
 - <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-7930/AGEC-1027web.pdf>
 - <http://pods.dasnr.okstate.edu/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-2533/NREM-5019web.pdf>

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