

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Handling Gasoline Safely



The National Fire Protection Association, in a recent survey, produced these figures regarding gasoline related fires.

- Approximately 150,000 fires occurring each year in the USA are caused by gasoline.
- About 500 Americans die each year in gasoline-related fires.
- Almost half a billion dollars in property damage can be linked to gasoline annually.

You know handling gasoline is a common sense thing, but sometimes we get out of focus, get in a hurry or lose our concentration. When gasoline is involved, it only takes one of these incidents and very likely we will have a serious problem.

Most gasoline injuries are preventable if gas is properly used and safely stored. Following are some tips from the American Burn Association that will help us and all the employees. Please pass these along to all our employees as a "heads up" for burn awareness:

- Don't smoke, or use matches, lighters, or other ignition sources anywhere around gas. Remember gas vapors can travel far from gas containers in enclosed areas.
- Always use gasoline in well ventilated areas.
- Turn off the equipment and let it cool down before refueling.
- Never use gasoline as a starter for a charcoal or a grill fire. You should always use a proper charcoal starter.
- Avoid ever using gasoline as a hand cleaner or as a cleaning fluid for machine or other parts.

- Always store gasoline in laboratory approved containers and in well ventilated areas.
- Don't store gas cans in a vehicle.
- Never use glass or plastic containers for gasoline storage. UL approved plastic cans are acceptable. Glass bottles or plastic bottles are unacceptable.

IF SOMEONE GETS BURNED –

Burns, whether from gasoline or some other source, can be painful and sometimes need medical attention. The American Burn Association recommends seeking medical attention for:

- ~ Burns to the face, hands, feet, genital areas or major joints (knees, elbows, shoulders)
- ~ Chemical and electrical burns
- ~ Burns that cover a large area.

Minor burns can be usually be treated with first aid on the job or at home flushing the area with cool water for a few minutes and then covering the area with sterile gauze pads. **Don't apply salves, ointments, creams or ice to burns. Don't break the blisters.**

BREATHING GAS FUMES CAN BE HARMFUL –

Gasoline can be a health hazard if you inhale concentrated amounts of fumes for too long or if it gets on your skin. Symptoms of overexposure to gas vapors include:

- ~ Respiratory problems such as coughing and breathing
- ~ Rash from skin contact with gasoline
- ~ Irritation or burning in the eyes from gas splashes.
- ~ Dizziness
- ~ Weakness, numbness in arms and legs, or burning sensation
- ~ Rapid heartbeat
- ~ Nausea or vomiting

If anyone begins to feel symptoms from inhaling gas vapors, they should get to areas with fresh air immediately. If these symptoms continue to linger, they should get medical attention. If the victim becomes unconscious, 911 should be called.

**FORGET THE NURSE
WITH SAFETY FIRST!
ACCIDENTS HURT -- SAFETY DOESN'T!**

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt./ Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201
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