



# CPSC Safety Alert

## Don't Get Burned

**Flammable Liquid Vapors Are Invisible,  
Explosive and Unpredictable**

Children and adults alike have been injured using flammable liquids such as gasoline. Most incidents involve a flammable liquid used on an outside fire such as burning trash, a bonfire, or a brush fire. Each year thousands of emergency department-treated injuries are related to flammable liquids. Of the people injured, 87% were male. Vapors from some of these liquids are highly flammable. Since you can't see vapors, use extra caution around the gasoline and other flammable liquids.

During outside use of flammable liquids, the wind can unexpectedly change direction causing vapors to blow toward you when lighting a fire. Make sure you have completely closed the flammable liquid container and it is away from the area before you light a fire.



**HOT TIP!** Wiping flammable liquids from your hands and onto your clothing can make your clothing more flammable. Clothes should not be machine washed or dried; they should be spot cleaned and line dried to remove residues of flammable liquids.



When refilling lighters test the lighter away from the fill area to prevent ignition of flammable vapors. If there is a spill, clean the spill and wash your hands to get rid of vapors before testing the lighter.

**HOT TIP!** Never store flammable liquids or gasoline-powered equipment inside a home, utility room or garage where vapors could be ignited by a spark or flame. Safer residential water heaters are available that prevent flashback fires and safely burn dangerous flammable vapors inside the heater. However, gas-fired appliances such as clothes dryers, furnaces, and older water heaters can ignite flammable vapors in the area.

Never put a flammable liquid on an old fire that could still be hot. The fire could immediately re-ignite and follow the vapors back to you and the flammable liquid container.



Containers for turpentine, charcoal lighter fluid, and torch fuel are required to have child-resistant closures. Portable gasoline containers intended for use by consumers will be required to have child-resistant closures effective January 17, 2009.



**HOT TIP!** Do not refuel power equipment with the engine running. Sparks and/or hot engine surfaces can cause ignition of flammable vapors. Turn the engine off and wait at least two minutes to allow the engine to cool before refueling.