

# SAFETY SENSE

## Shriners Hospitals Offer Gasoline Safety Tips

(NAPSA)—Summer fun can be safer when children are protected from flammable liquids.

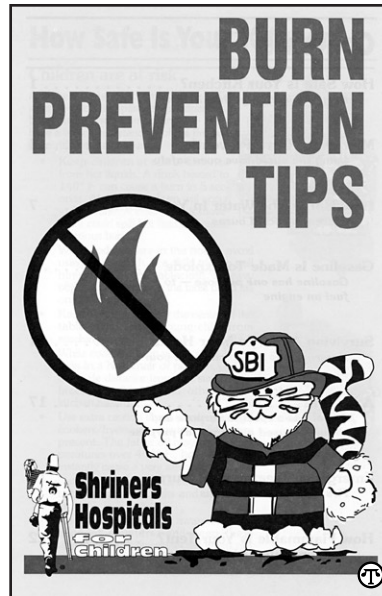
Studies conducted at Shriners Hospitals for Children in Cincinnati have shown that nearly 80 percent of patients treated for burn injuries related to the misuse of gasoline and other flammable liquids were burned between the months of May and August. The availability of flammable liquids, primarily gasoline, during warm weather activities—for things such as lawn care, use of sports-related motors and camping—is a critical risk factor.

Children age 5 and younger are at a high risk and often are burned as innocent bystanders. More than 26 percent of the incidents involved children between the ages of 2 and 3, who had an average burn injury to over 48 percent of their bodies.

Most often, the flammable substance, such as gasoline, was stored or used in an inappropriate location or manner. Accidental spilling of containers full of flammable liquids is a commonly observed situation associated with this type of burn injury. Over 90 percent of the incidents involved gasoline stored or used in the basement of a home.

### Burn Prevention Tips

- Lock up gasoline. Control access to gasoline and other flammable liquids by children. Gasoline is meant only to fuel an engine.
- Store gasoline outside the living space of the home.
- Do not store or use gasoline or other flammable liquids near an open flame or other heat source.
- Always fuel power mowers and other equipment outside where there is adequate ventilation to disperse the vapors.
- Cool it before you fuel it. Fuel engines only when they are cool; the heat of the engine can



**To protect children, gasoline and other flammable liquids need to be stored properly.**

ignite the gasoline vapors.

- When fueling a boat, allow gasoline vapors to dissipate before starting the engine. Accumulated vapors in low places (such as below boat deck) can cause explosions and fires when the boat engine starts.

For a free copy of Shriners Burn Prevention Tips booklet (available in English or Spanish) or more information on Shriners' network of 22 hospitals that provide free treatment to children with orthopaedic problems, burns and spinal cord injuries, write to: Shriners International Headquarters, Public Relations Dept., 2900 Rocky Point Dr., Tampa FL 33607, or visit the Web site at [www.shrinershq.org](http://www.shrinershq.org).

If you know a child Shriners can help, call 1-800-237-5055 in the United States or 1-800-361-7256 in Canada. Shriners Hospitals provide free treatment to children under age 18 without regard to race, religion or relationship to a Shriner.