



Gasoline Vapors Destroy

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A resident of base housing at Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma, was working on his motorcycle. After removing the gas tank, he put it in the laundry room, which measured 5 feet by 7 feet. The tank was about one-third full.

Everything was OK until the next morning when his wife washed a load of clothes and placed them in a dryer. As she started the dryer, the whole room ignited from gasoline vapors that had accumulated inside the dryer. Investigators estimated damage to the building at \$100,000.

Gasoline vapors are heavier than air. They flow invisibly along the ground and when ignited from a flame, spark, hot surface, or static electricity, can produce a shattering explosion (e.g., just one gallon of gasoline is equivalent to 14 sticks of dynamite in explosive force). Here are tips you should follow when using gasoline:

- Never store it around a flame source. Be particularly aware of sources such as matches, cigarettes and pilot lights on stoves and water heaters.

- Use gasoline outdoors or in a well-ventilated area.

- Start barbecue fires with fuels labeled as charcoal starters; **never use gasoline!**

- Fill the tanks of gasoline-powered equipment such as power mowers when the engines are turned off and cold. Running hot engines can ignite gasoline.

- Don't transport gasoline in your car, except when refilling a can at the local service station. A fiery explosion can occur if you have a collision or if vapors escape.

- Never siphon gasoline with your mouth. Even a few drops inhaled into your lungs can kill you.

- To clean grease off your hands, use an industrial-strength cleaner. **Never use gasoline!**

- If you spill gasoline on clothing, immediately remove it, then place the clothing outdoors for several days before washing and drying it so the vapors can evaporate. Clothes dryers can catch fire if you don't allow the vapors to escape first, even if you have washed the clothing.

Follow these recommendations for storing gasoline:

- Never store it in the house or garage. If you must store it, find a well-ventilated area away from the house.

- Use only approved safety cans, which have flame arrestors and pressure-release valves.

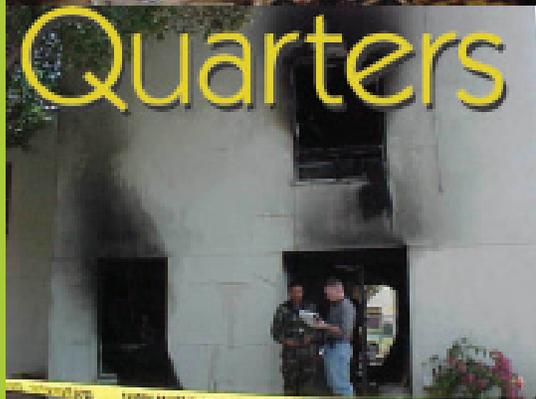
- Never use glass or plastic bottles for storing gasoline.

- Keep gasoline locked up when you're not using it. Always keep it out of the reach of children.

- If you swallow gasoline, don't induce vomiting. Immediately seek medical attention. ❌



a Base



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