



### Don't be "fuelish"

Each year, according to the National Burn Institute and the CDC, approximately 14,000 Americans are treated for burns from gasoline-related fires. This includes incidents involving refueling of vehicles and equipment, use of gasoline to start or accelerate fires, and the misuse of gasoline as a cleaning solvent. What makes gasoline so useful, are the same characteristics that can make it extremely hazardous. It is relatively cheap, portable, easy to handle, readily evaporates and ignites, and it contains a lot of stored energy.

In this activity, participants will be shown the importance of storing gasoline in appropriate containers, and the characteristics of a container that makes gasoline safer to transport, store, and use.

Gasoline, when used and stored appropriately is safe, but when spilled and allowed to mix with the right amount of air contains more energy than an equivalent amount of dynamite. How gasoline is transported and stored is extremely important.

#### Procedure:

1. Ask participants to list all the equipment they have at their home or farm that use gasoline as a fuel. These items will include:
  - older tractors
  - lawn mowers
  - chain saws
  - rotary garden tillers
  - cars and trucks
  - portable compressors and generators
  - weed trimmers
2. Using the containers, starting with the plastic milk jug, point out what makes the container appropriate or inappropriate for storing gasoline. The U.L. approved container is the safest way to store gasoline because it can withstand external heat without failing, has a secure, spring loaded cap and a flame-resistant device in the filler tube to prevent a flame from flashing back into the container. Nor, should gasoline be transported inside the passenger compartment of a vehicle. At no time should a plastic milk jug or glass container be used to store or transport gasoline. Also, gasoline should be stored in a well-ventilated area away from potential ignition sources such as water heaters and electric panels.

#### Materials Needed



Empty 1 to 5-gallon red plastic gasoline container with a standard nozzle and with an automatic shut off valve one piece)



U.L. approved gasoline storage container

Empty milk container

