

Danger! Gasoline

*Facts you should
know to prevent
explosion and fire
from gasoline
vapours*



Gasoline can be more dangerous than dynamite, because the explosive vapours given off by gasoline are invisible. In addition, high temperatures might not set off dynamite, but gasoline vapours ignite easily, even at low temperatures. Vapour from gasoline is heavier than air. Therefore, it travels close to the floor where it can easily come into contact with sparks from electric motors, water heaters, furnace motors and switches. Sparks or open flames can ignite vapours from a great distance.

Gasoline vapours are:

- invisible
- explosive
- flammable

By law, gasoline must be stored in safety containers which have been approved by a nationally recognized and certified agency. Approved containers display these labels prominently.



However, care must be taken even though these containers are designed to prevent spillage. Gasoline spills should be cleaned up immediately. Anyone using or storing gasoline should keep nearby an appropriate Class B fire extinguisher which is designed to handle fires caused by gasoline or other flammable liquids.

Gasoline can ignite – and explode!

- **NEVER** store gasoline in basements, pits or other confined areas.



Gasoline must be stored in areas that are well-ventilated, free from ignition sources and in areas permitted by the National Fire Code of Canada.

- **NEVER** store gasoline in glass, metal cans with plastic parts or in plastic containers which have not been approved for this purpose. Transport gasoline in approved portable containers.
- **NEVER** smoke while you are handling gasoline or other flammable liquids.



Prince Edward Island
Fire Fighters Association



- **NEVER** use gasoline to start your barbecue or as a cleaner or solvent.

In case of fire ...

Get out and stay out!

- **DO** clear people from the area immediately.
- **DO** open exterior doors and windows to ventilate the area.
- **DO** call the fire department from a neighbour's phone.

- **DO NOT** use your telephone to call the fire department.
- **DO NOT** operate light switches or any other source of sparks.
- **DO NOT** operate electrical appliances.
- **DO NOT** light matches or lighters, and extinguish cigarettes immediately.
- **DO NOT** re-enter the area until the hazard has been eliminated.

Call your local fire department if you have questions concerning the safe storage and use of gasoline.



**Metro Fire Prevention
Association**