



Burn Awareness Week
Preventing Gasoline Burns

Burn Awareness 2009

Gasoline has only one use – to fuel an engine.
Any other use is misuse.



The 2009 Burn Awareness campaign again features the popular character, Anthony the Fire Ant! Anthony is featured in the coloring book, as well as on posters, stickers and other materials that are available for order through www.burnawarenessweek.org.

Shriners Hospitals for Children has treated more than 800 children since 2002 for acute burns caused by ignition of a highly flammable material, such as gasoline. More than 200 of these children were under age 7, and 584 were in the “tweens” and teens category – ages 8-18. Kids ages 13 and older are in the highest at-risk group for gasoline and other flammable substance burns.

Gasoline is a necessary part of our everyday lives. Without it, we’d be unable to get to and from work; our store shelves would be empty; our lawn mowers would be idle.

While gasoline is important, it also can be very dangerous. Its fumes can quickly ignite, causing serious injury or death. “Gasoline has only one use – to fuel an engine. Any other use is misuse” is the theme of Shriners Hospitals for Children’s 2009 Burn Awareness campaign.

Feb. 1-7, 2009, is Burn Awareness Week, and Shriners Hospitals for Children will use this week to kick off a year-long campaign focused on preventing gasoline burn injuries.

Preventing burn injuries and burn awareness education should be an ongoing effort, not just a week-long campaign. Shriners are encouraged to share gasoline burn prevention messages throughout 2009 using materials developed specifically for this effort.

Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children have been participating in Burn Awareness Week for almost 20 years, and the 2009 campaign will use a multimedia approach, encompassing print, broadcast and online resources in order to reach as many people as possible with this important information.

A coloring book, classroom lessons, posters, stickers, pens and other materials are available to order at www.burnawarenessweek.org. A video is also available that features the story of a Shriners Hospitals for Children patient, Austin Bailiff.

Austin, 16, of Cashmere, Wash., knows first-hand the dangers of playing with gasoline. One day in March 2006, Austin and a friend were “bored.” Looking for something to do, they found an old work glove, and wondered if motor oil would ignite the glove. When it didn’t, they poured gasoline into the glove and set it on fire. What they didn’t realize before pouring gasoline into the glove was that a small tag inside the glove actually had caught on fire during their first attempt with motor oil.

Before both teens knew what hit them, the gasoline fumes ignited, covering Austin and burning 90 percent of his body. The doctors who initially treated him gave him a 10 percent chance for survival.

Luckily, the Bailiff family found Shriners Hospitals for Children — Northern California, where Austin continues to receive care. His story is featured in the video, which targets teen audiences, and is available through the Web site.

The video, along with the coloring book and other burn prevention educational materials and promotional items, can be ordered directly through www.burnawarenessweek.org.



Shriners Hospitals
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