



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION DIVISION
OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL

Date: 6/11/2020

Contact: Marsha McCurdy Adell
Fire Inspector
West Hartford Fire Marshal's Office
860.561.8316
MAzell@WestHartfordCT.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The West Hartford Fire Department is committed to fire prevention and community safety. Reaching out to the people we serve is important because the information we offer may result in a fire being prevented.

As much as gasoline is a necessity for most cars and many lawn care tools, it also requires care in handling and storage. The risks are high if gas is misused or stored improperly because it may cause a fire. While gas is classified as a flammable liquid, its vapors are also very flammable. The flame from a pilot light on a water heater or even static electricity could ignite the vapors and put you and your property at risk. Storing gas 50 feet away from your home in a cool location that is properly ventilated so the vapors can dissipate is best practice.

Handling gas takes a few steps that are important to keeping you safe. Keep these additional precautions in mind when storing and using gasoline:

- Only use containers that are approved for the storage of gasoline. A leak-proof, clearly labeled receptacle with a lid that can be sealed tightly is most appropriate. This specific container is red, so the flammable nature of its contents can be easily identified.
- Use caution while filling these containers. Go slowly and fill only up to 95% full. Keep your face away from the fumes and the container away from heat, fire, and sparks.
- Keep your gasoline away from direct sunlight and away from children and pets.
- Only use gasoline for its approved purpose: it is motor fuel. DO NOT use gas for grills or lamps.
- If ever you get gas on your skin, immediately wash with soapy water to avoid skin irritations.

If you're using a lawn mower, snow blower, or even a home generator, having gasoline at home is convenient throughout the year. Safe handling and storing practices will give you peace of mind and make it easy for you to be ready for the next time you want to start your engine.

Thank you for joining us in our effort to keep the community safe through fire prevention.

WEST HARTFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT
50 SOUTH MAIN STREET, ROOM 204
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06107-2538
(860)561-8320 FAX: (860)561-7551