



NEWS RELEASE

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Boy Burned While Playing With Gasoline

A 12 year old boy from unincorporated Washington County is being treated for serious burns at the Legacy Oregon Burn Center tonight after gasoline vapors ignited while he was trying to light some toys on fire. It was the second incident within one hour where a child was burned.

Firefighters from Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue were called 4845 SW 160th Avenue in unincorporated Washington County at 7:56 p.m. after a passing law enforcement officer saw a child on fire in the home's driveway. The deputy called for firefighters to respond and bystanders extinguished the fire. Firefighters arrived to find a 12 year old boy suffering from serious burns over a significant portion of his body. A Metro West ambulance rushed the boy to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center.

A TVF&R investigator has determined that the boy was trying to light plastic army figures on fire using paper and gasoline. Gasoline and gasoline vapors ignited and caught the boy's clothes on fire.

"Never, ever play with gasoline," says TVF&R Public Information Officer Brian Barker, "people need to understand that gasoline vapors are incredibly flammable and can ignite a much larger area than you may expect. Our hearts go out to this boy and his family tonight."

The gasoline fire was the second incident within one hour involving children and burns. At 7:00 p.m., TVF&R responded to NW Liliu Drive in the Bethany area after a resident reported a fire in a kitchen. TVF&R firefighters arrived to find a 15 year old boy suffering from burns to his arms after a fire on the stove. Investigators determined that the boy had been attempting to mix chemicals together to create a large amount of smoke when the chemical brew ignited and burned his arms. There was no serious damage to the home.

"These two incidents are a wake up call for parents everywhere. Playing with fire and chemicals is not for kids. Take fire experimentation and firesetting seriously," says TVF&R's Brian Barker, "if you do nothing, there is a good chance that the behavior will continue and escalate. Property damage, injury, or loss of life could be a result."

If you suspect that your child may have an unhealthy fascination with fire, TVF&R has juvenile firesetting experts available to meet with you and your child. If you would like more information, or an appointment with a JFS interventionist, or would like to share information concerning a youth firesetter, please call our Juvenile Firesetter Intake line at (503) 259-1408. Services include education, intervention, and mental health referrals to any family who has had past or present firesetting behaviors.

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