

August 09, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Reminder: Use Caution Around Open Flames

In two separate incidents in less than a month, Springfield residents have been burned after attempting to use gasoline to start a fire. Late this afternoon, a woman received 1st and 2nd degree burns when she poured gasoline into her chiminea. On July 12th, a Springfield man also received 1st and 2nd degree burns when using gasoline to ignite a recreational fire. Both victims were transported to Mercy Hospital and treated for their burns.

These incidents serve as reminders that all residents should use caution around open flames. Remember, any open flame should be at least 10 feet away from any structure or combustible surface. Before lighting an outdoor fire, check the weather forecast. Avoid windy conditions that can blow embers. Always have a container of water nearby and a garden hose on standby before starting the fire. Finally, never try to start a fire with gasoline or other ignitable liquid. This is extremely dangerous.

As a reminder, there are restrictions to recreational fires within the city limits of Springfield which may be viewed on our website at www.springfieldmo.gov/fire or by calling Fire Department Headquarters at (417) 864-1500.

For more information, contact Fire and Life Safety Educator Cara Erwin at cerwin@springfieldmo.gov or 417-619-7592.