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YOU SHOULD KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE

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Gas Can or Flame
Thrower?
Tips on Gas Can
Safety
Videos and More
Resource Center



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Dear Jessica,

Many of us have a plastic gas can in our garage or tool shed. Unfortunately, most plastic gas cans are made without a safety feature called a flame arrester. This creates a dangerous situation where they can explode. Take a minute to learn more.



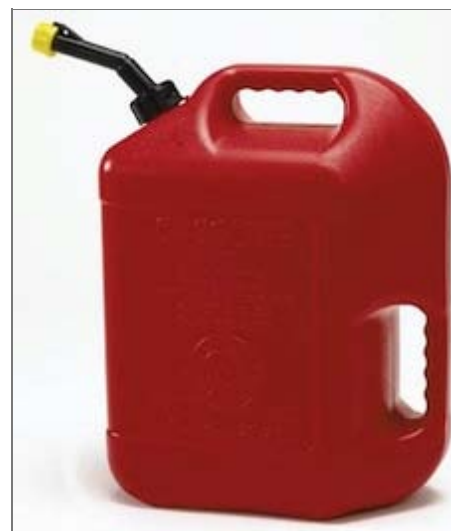
Tips on Handling Gasoline Safely

Flaw in Gas Can Design Can Cause Explosions and Serious Injuries

Three-year-old Landon Beadore was helping his mom pick up toys when he knocked over a plastic gas can just like the one pictured here. The pilot light on a nearby water heater ignited the gas fumes, which flashed back to the nozzle on the gas can, turning it into a firebomb.

Landon's horrible experience has been repeated more than 75 times throughout the country, burning and killing children, teenagers and adults. Many of these injuries might have been prevented with a part costing less than \$1 called a flame arrester.

You Should Know more about gas cans and how to prevent injuries to your loved ones. [More explosions. Unsafe cans. Safety tips.](#) >>>



Gas Can or Time Bomb?

Millions of plastic gas cans are sold every year in America without a flame arrester.

Experts claim this makes them time bombs, which could explode without warning. [Learn more.](#)

BY THE NUMBERS /

200 Years

Flame arresters were invented 200 years ago and are used today on water heaters, charcoal lighter fluid and even Bacardi 151 rum. Flame arresters have also been used in metal gas cans for 100 years and have effectively prevented explosions.

Source: Portable Gasoline Container Explosions and Their Prevention, Society of Forensic Engineers and

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Scientists

95%
19,000,000

Plastic gas cans represent 95 percent of all gas cans sold in America, or an estimated 19 million per year. Blitz USA, the manufacturer accounting for 75 percent of all U.S. sales, does not include a flame arrester in its plastic gas cans.

Source: *Consumer Product Safety Commission 2003 Memo* ([download](#)) and *Various Industry Sources*

1926.
155(I)

Workplace standard 1926.155(I) on fire protection and prevention require that gas cans have flame arresters. Yet gas cans sold to American consumers are not required to meet the same standards.

Source: *Safety and Health Regulations for Construction, Occupational Safety and Health Care Administration*

BOOKMARK FAVORITES /

Safety Tips from the National Fire Protection Association

The [National Fire Protection Association](#) (NFPA), established in 1896, is dedicated to reducing the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards through codes and standards, research, training and education. [Visit NFPA's page](#) on gasoline fires at home.

Dan Rather Reports *A Sudden Explosion*

Dan Rather reported extensively on plastic gas can explosions. In *A Sudden Explosion* (2008), he interviews victims and their attorneys, experts, government officials and a company spokesperson. Test videos show actual gas can explosions. See excerpts on YouTube: [Parts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6](#). *Internal Combustion* (2011) is the follow-up ([see intro](#)). Both shows are available on iTunes.

Survivors Group Supports Burn Victims and Their Families

The mission of the [Burn Advocates Network](#) is to support burn survivors – whether they are children, young men and women who are wounded in combat or the elderly – as they face the challenges of recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration.



Know Your Stuff Resource
Center



Talking the Issues

Check out podcasts featuring topics from past

See plastic gas cans without flame arresters explode in test videos. Watch survivors on *Dan Rather Reports*. Browse other resources.

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