

# SAFETY ALERT



AFZF-SAFE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



JUN 14 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Backyard Fire result in an Injury to Soldier

1. This past weekend, a III Corps Soldier received second degree burns to both legs from a backyard fire. This preventable accident occurred when the Soldier attempted to pour gasoline directly on an open flame. The Soldier dropped the container in the fire as fumes from the gasoline ignited traveling upward towards the source. In an attempt to remove the container from within the fire, the Soldier tried to kick the container clear when both pant legs caught fire. Two friends witnessing this incident extinguished the fire on his pant legs, but not before injuries had occurred. The Soldier was rushed to Darnall Army Medical Center where he was evaluated and transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center's burn unit. It is suspected that involvement of alcohol was a contributing factor in this incident.
2. Every year Americans look forward to summer vacations, family reunions, camping, and the Fourth of July celebration. However, recreational fires and outdoor cooking also brings associated hazards which can result in injuries when a combustible gas or liquid ignites. Annually there are thousands of Americans injured in these fires, thus special considerations for implementation and sustainment should be practiced. These accidents can be prevented by choosing the correct accelerant and having the proper training. Fire prevention techniques are learned through approved courses and safety programs. Gasoline is never an acceptable accelerant! Summertime is a time of fun and making happy memories. Knowing a few safety tips and following instructions will help everyone have a safe summer.
3. Our duty is to prevent accidents and minimize Soldier injuries and fatalities. As we continue to support combat operations abroad, our Soldiers must remain vigilant for the "War at Home" as well. We must properly prepare our Soldiers for the hazards associated with recreational activities, as well as grooming them to recognize potential threats. Making appropriate, informed decisions concerning our off duty activities is paramount to preserving the force.

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PHANTOM WARRIORS!



DONALD M. CAMPBELL, JR.  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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