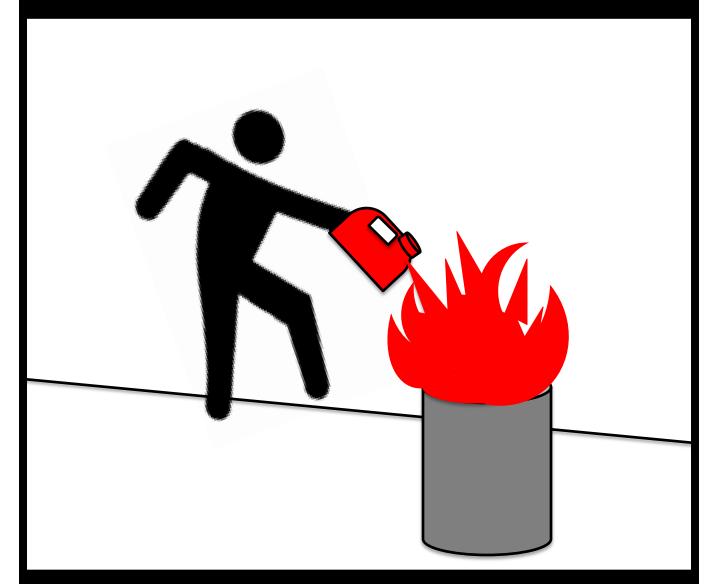- **Never use gasoline or saw fuel near an open flame**
- **Use the correct materials to start and stoke fires**

Toolbox Talk Guide

Mechanic Killed Pouring Gasoline on Fire

OR-FACE

Our safety talk today is about a 37-year-old field mechanic who died when he tried to stoke a warming fire with gasoline. The victim and a coworker were at a logging site to work on a log-loading machine. The weather was cold and rainy. The coworker started a warming fire with diesel fuel and chainsaw gasoline. He left for about 15 minutes and came back to find the victim lying 35 feet from the warming fire engulfed in flames. There was another fire about 20 feet from the warming fire that was later found to be a burning 5-gallon plastic gasoline container. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene from severe thermal injuries.

So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.

- Never use gasoline or saw fuel near an open flame.
- Make sure to use the correct materials to safely start and stoke a fire. For example, use a drip-torch with a mixture of diesel fuel and gasoline (ratio 3:1 or 4:1).
- Management and I must make sure that employees understand that when pouring gasoline on an existing fire, a flame can travel up the stream into the container and explode.
- Management and I must train employees on the hazards and safe procedures for starting and stoking fires.

ASK: "Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?"
Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.

END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).

- "What other precautions do we need to take when handling gasoline?"
- "What would you do if you are outdoors and it gets cold and rainy?"
- Discuss a similar situation and what employees can do.
- Express your commitment to providing materials needed for the work environment.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.