



# Firepot Safety Tips

Firepots (also known as portable fireplaces or any product that uses liquid or gel fuels) are portable, decorative lighting accents that have an open flame. They are made of a ceramic or other heat-resistant material, have an open fuel reservoir that holds the alcohol-based fuel, and may include a snuff tool to extinguish the flame.

## Flame-jetting Risks

When you pour liquid or gel fuels into a firepot that is still burning or hot, they can:

- ignite
- shoot flames from the container to nearby people or objects

Fuel vapours around the pouring fuel stream ignite and travel up the fuel stream into the fuel container.

Flame jetting occurs in a fraction of a second, making it impossible for people to get out of the way of a flame jet. Flame jetting incidents can involve multiple victims and have resulted in fatalities and very serious injuries.



Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management

## What you should do

- Be certain the flame is out and never pour fuel over a flame. Some fuels will burn in a way that flames may be difficult to see, especially when a low amount of fuel is left in the firepot.
- Be certain that the firepot has cooled completely before refueling.
- Do not use pourable fuel containers without a flame arrestor. A flame arrestor resembles a screen that is built into the container opening. It allows liquid to flow out and reduces the chance that a flame can travel into the container and cause flame jetting.
- Non-refillable fuel canisters are a safer alternative to pourable fuels.

Other safety considerations for firepots and pourable fuels:

- Use firepots on level ground or on a stable, level surface, at a safe distance from people and flammable items.
- Keep pourable fuels tightly capped when not refueling and away from any flames or other objects that can create a spark.

For more information, call Clarington Emergency & Fire Services Fire Prevention Division 905-623-5126 ext. 2806



# Clarington