

Soundbite script – Don't get burned disposing of yard debris

Dr. Stathis (STAY-THIS) Poulakidas (POLE-UH-KEEDAS), medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"The huge risk is you don't know the weather patterns, and as the weather changes, a fire you think you have under control becomes out of control quickly." (:10)

Dr. Stathis Poulakidas, medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"Those have a risk of exploding very quickly and catching the individuals on fire. They might have some of the gasoline, whether it be diesel or regular old gas, on their clothing, and then they catch fire as they're lighting these fires." (:20)

Dr. Stathis Poulakidas, medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"The majority of what we see is lower extremity burns. They will have gasoline on their pant leg, or the fire will jump to their pant leg as they're close to the fire. While most are lower extremity burns, we'll see it on their face, as the fire, when you're using accelerants, splashes back at them as things explode." (:20)

Dr. Stathis Poulakidas, medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"That's going to minimize your burn. There are risks when you stop drop and roll, especially if you're on a farm and there's animal feces or dirt, it can put you at risk for wound infection. But we'd rather address that, instead of dealing with a much larger burn." (:16)

Dr. Stathis Poulakidas, medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"It tends to be our elderly farmers and people that can't get away from a fire as quickly. Make sure that there are multiple levels of people around so that if somebody does get injured, there is somebody that can call 9-1-1, and administer care right away." (:17)

Dr. Stathis Poulakidas, medical director, OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center Burn Unit, Rockford, IL.

"If it's garbage, I would say, pay the old-fashioned garbage truck to come and get the trash," he says. "Communities are very good at accumulating the leaves in the front lawn and having those taken away by the appropriate personnel. I think there are better ways than feeling like you're backed in a corner and have to burn your leaves or trash." (:24)