



OREGON

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Investigation determines static electricity most probably ignited sanitizing alcohol

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's investigation report into the burn injuries suffered by Ireland Lane were accidental and most likely occurred when static electricity from clothing and bedding material ignited her shirt which was saturated with a mixture of olive oil and ethyl alcohol based hand sanitizer.

This was a very unusual combined set of circumstances that resulted in this young girl getting burned," said State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace. "Alcohol based hand sanitizers are very safe when used according to instructions. OHSU as all medical facilities in Oregon are very safe places. There is no reason to believe that anyone at OHSU or any other medical facility is in danger based on this highly unusual event."

Compounding the severity of the fire was the presence of olive oil on the girl's t-shirt and hair. The olive oil was used to remove glue from the EEG leads that had been used in monitoring the girl for unrelated injuries sustained prior to the fire. The olive oil was combed through her hair and had dripped onto her shirt, in addition Ireland Lane was running her hands through her hair and rubbing them on her shirt.

Her father, Stephen Lane, stated that Ireland likely wiped hand sanitizer on her shirt to clean the oil out. She had also wiped her bedside table clean with hand sanitizer prior to the fire.

Ireland had apparently learned recently about static electricity at home and was attempting to create static sparks in her bed by scuffing her feet and rubbing the bed linens. A static charge most

probably ignited the fumes from the hand sanitizer and burned her cotton shirt that was saturated with olive oil.

“We are relieved that the Fire Marshal’s report confirmed that Doernbecher is a safe place, that there were no violations of the standard of care and that an extremely unusual set of circumstances contributed to this awful accident. Our number one concern remains the health and safety of our patients, and we continue to support Ireland and her family through this difficult time,” said Stacy Nicholson, M.D., physician-in-chief, OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital.

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