

# Learn Before You Burn



## Check Equipment

Always **check your equipment** before you use it. Check that hardware is not loosening, check handles, and trim any frayed wick or wire.

## What to Wear

Wear tight fitting natural fibre clothing. Plastics (fleece!) not only catch fire quickly, they will also melt to your skin. **Yuck.** Fire test costumes before performing, or **don't wear anything.** Conceal or wet long hair.

## Never Spin Fire Alone

It's pretty hard for you to see if your back is on fire. Make sure your **Fire Safety Tech** is in the *ready position* with a wet wool blanket or towel and that you both know where your extinguisher & first aid are!

## Safety of Others

Check out your location for flammables. Be aware of local fire bans, trees close by and local regulations and permits if required. Ensure your fuelling station is well marked, out of reach of your audience and well away from the area you're spinning in. Your **Fire Safety Tech** should keep an eye on the fuelling station and ensure that onlookers keep a respectable distance.

## Fuelling Up

Fuel is a subjective element of spinning, and we suggest you experiment to find the fuel/mix that works best for you. Keep in mind that you're breathing the fumes of your fire.

We have heard of **Klean Heat** and **Australia Fire Water**, but we have not tested them out yet.

**Camp fuel/white gas** is the most popular for indoor performances and cleaner burns. It has a whiter flame, is less smoky and evaporates quickly which means shorter burn times. If you have toys pre-dipped & waiting during a performance, triple plastic bag them to slow down evaporation.

A mix of **lamp oil** and **kerosene** is popular for outdoor performances. Lamp oil burns a bit cleaner, Kerosene is smokier, and mixed together you'll get a longer burn time and hotter orange flames. Lamp oil tends to spray and leaves an oily residue on the ground or stage. If you're using it, let your toys burn off with slow movements for a bit so you that you don't spray the audience. If you have fire breathers performing with lamp oil, have a plan for where they spray & clean up after they are done, or cover their stage area with a tarp that you can quickly and easily remove. *This will help your fire dancers stay standing.* \*(\*

(Before the **first use of your new toys**, you'll want to soak your poi in fuel for around an hour. This will allow time for your wick to become saturated with fuel. After de-virginizing your wick, soaking your toys in fuel for a minute or two is usually long enough.)

## Fuel Dumps & Environmental Fuel Management

(courtesy of Nick Woolsey @ www.playpoi.com)

An optimum fuel station will consist of; an area roped off from the audience with easy access for you and enough room for you to dip your toys and spin off, and two containers (one **Dipping Bucket**, one

**Spin Off Bucket**). A paint can with a lid works best for the dipping bucket. Secure the lid after dipping before you light up. A spin off bucket (*a bucket with a handle*) will capture your excess fuel, which can be added back to your fuel bucket. This is much better than soaking the earth, your surroundings, and audience.

Let your toy's excess fuel drip back into your dipping can, place your soaked wick in the bucket, place the toy in the bucket a couple of inches above the bottom of the bucket, hold the toy and handle of the bucket together, swing the bucket in circles, and then take out your toy and pour the excess fuel back in your dipping bucket.

Advanced fire spinners may play with **excess fuel**, but we don't suggest this until you are *quite* comfortable with both fire dancing and fire safety.

## Extinguishing Equipment & Extending Toy Life

This summer we picked up a tip that will help extend the life of your Kevlar wicks: don't let your toy burn out (*because as your fuel runs out your wick will start to burn*).

Instead, pass your flame to one of your friends and then before your fuel runs out extinguish your toys. Either blow your toys out from the bottom of the wick, or if blowing twice doesn't do it, completely smother with a wet wool blanket or towel & then immediately dip your fire toy into fuel to cool the wick down. This works best for fire dancing toys that *do not have a large metal core*. If your toys have red glowing metal cores wait until they have had a chance to cool down before dipping.

## First Aid for Burns

Hold your burn under gently running cool water for about ten minutes to return the area to normal body temperature. Remove jewelry from the affected area, unless it is stuck to the flesh. Cover your burn with a sterile, not-stick dressing. **Tea tree oil** is a very good treatment for burns. Drink water, **never alcohol** – alcohol thins the blood and slows the body's ability to heal itself. Seeking medical attention is never a bad idea. Pouring cold water over your dressing can alleviate pain. **Do not** apply lotions or moisturizers, **Do not** prick blisters, **Do not** overcool with ice, and **Do not** put towels or adhesive bandages directly on your burn.

## First Aid for Pressure Splits

Pressure splits are another common injury and occur when your toys hit your body hard enough to cause an open wound. Apply pressure to these wound with a clean cloth or towel. Head wounds will bleed a lot so don't be alarmed by the amount of blood that comes from a small pressure split on the head. Applying **Tea tree oil** can help your blood coagulate and relieve some of your pain. If you feel dizzy or nauseous seek medical attention, as you may have a concussion.

---

In choosing to play with fire, you understand the risks inherent with your passion for the flame.

**Luxotica assumes no liability** for any damages to person or property incurred as a result of playing with our toys.

**Lori Miller**

lori@luxotica.com

**www.luxotica.com**