

“KEEPING PACE” - #11

(Page 1)



GASOLINE IN KEROSENE HEATER:

We now have proof that gasoline can take a while to ignite after it is poured into a gravity fed kerosene heater fuel tank. The photograph above shows the pumps at a service station where gasoline was pumped into a two gallon fuel can by mistake. The proximity of the gasoline and kerosene pumps there invited this type of accident, in my opinion. After the man poured the gasoline into his kerosene heater in his mobile home, he and his wife sat next to it in their living room for 1 ½ to 2 hours before it erupted into flames, which immediately reached the ceiling. Luckily, the gasoline did not explode in this instance, and they were not hurt. The owners eventually put the fire out themselves with water, but not before many thousands of dollars of damage occurred.

(Continued on Page 2):

“KEEPING PACE” - #11

(Page 2)



35 MPH SPEED CHANGE: The above photograph shows an automobile which was crashed on purpose into an immovable barrier at 35 miles per hour for a government test. This is how the automobile would appear if it had struck a large truck with a closing speed of 35 mph, because a large truck is almost an immovable barrier. The automobile would also appear this way if it had struck another car of equal weight at a closing speed of 70 mph. In that case, the kinetic energy would divide equally between the two automobiles, so that each would have a speed change of 35 mph.

CRITIQUING EXPERT REPORTS:

You may not be aware of all that we do. One important service is the analysis of other experts' reports to determine if they have rendered valid opinions. Because of our experience, we can usually analyze their photographs and evidence sufficiently without having the opportunity to visit the scene. If the opinions expressed in an expert report presented to you are not understandable and are not proved to your satisfaction, you should not accept them until you obtain a second opinion from another expert.

Sincerely,

Frederick F. Franklin, P.E.