



Department
of Commerce

NEWS RELEASE

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STATE FIRE MARSHAL WARNS OF DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH "FIRE CHALLENGE"

The Ohio Department of Commerce Division of State Fire Marshal wants to urge Ohioans not to engage in the "fire challenge." This challenge, recently made popular through social media, involves a person pouring a flammable liquid onto their body and then lighting themselves on fire. That person then nominates other friends to take part in the challenge.

Doing this could result in serious injuries, including first, second and third degree burns or even death.

"Fire is not something to be played with. The 'fire challenge' is not only extremely dangerous for the people involved, but it could also be a danger to other people or structures around you," said State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. "We urge you to not take part in this new fad."

Many of the participants in the "fire challenge" are teenagers. That's why Marshal Flowers is asking parents to talk with their children about the consequences of setting themselves on fire. He believes making young people aware of the severity of the challenge may deter them from taking part.

"Sit down with your kids and let them know this isn't a safe game," said Marshal Flowers. "We need to make sure our children understand how dangerous this challenge actually is."

If you know of someone who has taken part in the "fire challenge," please contact your local law enforcement agency.

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