

## Veterinarian Prevents Roadside Fire Disaster

Dr. Michael Brannan was en route to his first house call in Masaryktown, Florida, on the morning of October 2 when he noticed a car pulling over on the side of the road with smoke pouring out from under the hood, as reported by Steve Thompson on October 4 in the *St. Petersburg Times Online*. After yelling for Ross Prio Jr., the driver, to get away, he opened the hood and found his hands suddenly surrounded by flames. Brannan ran to his car, grabbed a portable extinguisher, and returned to put the fire out. Prio credited Brannan with saving his car and probably even his life. "I'd have probably been dumb enough to try and go in the car and get my stuff out," Prio said. "I'm sitting here in a little bit of shock thinking of what could have happened and didn't happen because of that man."

For more information, visit [www.wptimes.com](http://www.wptimes.com).

## Elburn Officer Honored for Saving Life

Elburn, Illinois, Police Officer Kurt Gilkey received formal commendation during the last week of August for his heroic actions in the early morning hours of July 26, as reported by Dan Chanzit in the *Kane County Chronicle* on August 22. The second person on the scene of a rollover car accident, Gilkey used a portable extinguisher to fight back fifteen- to twenty-foot flames that threatened the passenger trapped in the wreckage while another officer concentrated on freeing the passenger.

For more information, visit [www.kcchronicle.com](http://www.kcchronicle.com).

## One Soap Star Starts Fire, Another Puts It Out

Vicki Entwistle, a famous actress on the British soap opera *Coronation Street*, used a fire extinguisher to put out a fire started by co-star John Savident's discarded cigarette, as reported in the *Daily Record* on August 20. Around 7 p.m., he put out his cigarette and threw it in a trash can. Soon after, Entwistle emerged from her dressing room and smelled smoke. She called another nearby staffer and then the fire department. The women forced the actor's dressing room door open and put out the fire, which had already started spreading to the wall and floor, before the fire department arrived.

For more information, visit [www.dailyrecord.co.uk](http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk).

## Dollar Store Fire Causes Only \$400 in Damage

On August 21, a fire at a Family Dollar in Portales, New Mexico, caused about \$400 in damage but did not cause any injuries or further damage, as reported in the *Portales News-Tribune* on August 26. Someone from the store called the fire department, but by the time they arrived, an employee had already put out the fire with a portable fire extinguisher. "[A fire like this] just grows exponentially," Fire Marshal Mike Running said. "Two more minutes and we probably would have had something that would be out of control."

For more information, visit [www.pntonline.com](http://www.pntonline.com).

## Airport Ground Crew Squelches Fire

Well prepared for a situation of this type, the ground crew at Hyderabad airport (Hyderabad, India) noticed a fire in the left side of a full-capacity forty-eight-seat Air Deccan aircraft on September 24 just before it took off on its inaugural flight to Vijayawada, as reported by Suresh Krishnamoorthy in the *Hindu Online* on September 24. The crew signaled to the pilot to cut the engine, and a senior fire officer used a wheeled extinguisher to completely put out the fire within seconds. "The instant 'signal and response' of both the pilot and the fire officer seemed to have saved the day, as the fire was put out within seconds."

For more information, visit [www.hinduonnet.com](http://www.hinduonnet.com).

## Extinguisher Prevented Major Damage in Dorm Fire

According to Steve North, fire chief with the McLane Fire District No. 9, a small blaze on September 27 at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, could have been much larger, as reported by Heather Woodward in the *Olympian* on September 29. The fire started when a strand of Christmas lights short-circuited and ignited a wall poster on fire. Allen Percefull, an Evergreen sophomore, saw the flames from his room directly above the fire, rushed down, grabbed a fire extinguisher, and put out the flames.

For more information, visit [www.theolympian.com](http://www.theolympian.com). ❖