

# CARNIVAL DISASTERS

**I**T'S YOUR FIRST week of summer vacation and your Aunt Rhoda set you up with a part-time job: Rhoda's neighbor Samantha will be in Ecuador for the next three months and she needs somebody to look after her dog. Samantha's dog Noodles is a wirey, high-strung 70-pound greyhound. Noodles will tear, chew and claw practically anything.

On your first day dog sitting you put Noodles on a leash and go into Samantha's garage to get a chew toy before you take her for a walk. You need both hands to open the box of chew toys, so you put the other end of the leash around your ankle.

The next thing you know the mailman puts some mail into the mail slot and this startles Noodles. She starts running and yanks you off your feet. As you're falling you instinctively grab for something. You wind up clutching a box containing Samantha's art supplies, which includes a gallon of paint thinner. The can of paint thinner bursts open as it bounces across the garage. The pilot light on the water heater ignites the paint thinner and Noodles completely freaks out, dragging you around the burning garage by your ankle.

You and Noodles escape the flames and watch in horror as Sam's house burns to the ground. Your clothes are torn, your hair is singed and you have a huge scrape on your face. You and a now perfectly calm Noodles walk to your Aunt's house. You're in pain and limping behind her. Rhoda answers her front door. You're standing there with a glazed look on your face and bleeding from a head wound. In a low, monotone voice you tell Rhoda, "You'll need to watch Noodles for a while." Your aunt is stunned. Before she can form a question, you hand her the leash and slink off. Noodles couldn't be happier, wagging her tail and licking your aunt's hand.

What do you do? You do what any sensible person would do under the circumstances: You leave the state and join a traveling circus. When you meet the man that owns the circus, he asks you, "Do you have any experience with flammable liquid?"

You look Circus Billy square in the eyes and reply, "Oh-yeah, I know all about that stuff. In fact, combustible material was a big part of my last job." With that and a handshake, you're now the fuel truck driver for the Billy T. Foofram Circus and Exposition.

The fuel tank on the circus's electrical generator holds 500 gallons. When the fuel gauge reads 300 gallons you leave the circus in the fuel truck and head to the filling station. You make continuous round-trips between the circus and the filling station until the generator's fuel tank is full. When the tank is full you can take a break.

The generator consumes 200 gallons of fuel in 2 ½ hours. Including driving time, you can add 100 gallons to the tank in 45 minutes. While the generator was operating, the amount of fuel in the tank dropped to 300 gallons at 8:07 am.

## QUESTION:

- 1) At what time did you take your first break? Your calculations will only involve minutes, not the number of cycles. Cycles are the number of trips that you make to the filling station.

