

# **FIRE AT THE PUMP!!!**

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **1. DO NOT RE-ENTER YOUR VEHICLE WHILE REFUELING!**

You should not get back into the vehicle during refueling! This simple act can cause a buildup of static electricity and cause a spark when you touch the nozzle. If you must reenter the vehicle, make sure you discharge any static buildup upon exiting the car before going back to the pump nozzle. This can be done safely by touching a metal part of the vehicle, such as the door, or some other metal surface, with a bare hand.

### **2. DO NOT FILL GAS CANS WHILE THEY ARE INSIDE A VEHICLE OR IN THE BED OF A VEHICLE**

Filling gasoline cans inside a vehicle or in the bed of a vehicle can also cause a buildup of static electricity. The bed liner, the plastic container, or other materials that separate the gasoline from the ground can result in a spark at the nozzle and ignite the gasoline vapors. To avoid this situation, gasoline containers, whether plastic or metal must not be filled while inside a vehicle or in the bed of a vehicle! Place the container on the ground before filling.

**FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!**

If you experience a fire while refueling your vehicle:

- Leave the nozzle in the fill pipe of your vehicle and back off!
- Shut down the pump!
  - Immediately notify the station attendant to shut off all dispensing devices and pumps with emergency controls, or
  - Use the emergency shutdown button to shut off the pump and use the emergency intercom to summon help

**---Some 24-hour self service stations will not have an attendant so you must use the emergency shutoff yourself**

- Get everyone out of the vehicle from the opposite side**
- Use available fire extinguisher**
- Call the fire department**

**If you experience a fire at a portable gasoline container**

- Shut off the flow of gasoline**
- Use available fire extinguisher**
- Call the fire department**

**The two precautions above may save you from serious injury!  
Several fires have been caused by static electricity, which can be prevented by heeding the two precautions above.**

Static electricity build-up is most likely to occur during the fall and winter months, when the air is cool or cold and dry. Static electricity can build up when you exit or re-enter the vehicle during fueling. Upon returning to the vehicle fill pipe during or at the end of refueling, you can cause a spark from a static discharge at the nozzle. This spark can ignite the gasoline vapors present at and around the nozzle.

To date, over 150 incidents have occurred nation-wide that have resulted in numerous injuries, property damage and one fatality.

To avoid this, you should stay outside the vehicle while refueling. It may be very tempting to get back in the car during extremely cold weather, but the average fill-up only takes around two minutes and staying outside the vehicle will greatly reduce the build-up of static electricity that could be discharged at the nozzle.

Consumers can minimize these and other potential fueling hazards by following safe refueling procedures all year long. For more information on avoiding potential problems with static electricity build-up at the pump, and other safe motor fuel refueling, storage and handling guidelines see API's web site at [www.api.org/consumer](http://www.api.org/consumer) <<http://www.api.org/consumer>>, and PEI's web site at [www.pei.org/static](http://www.pei.org/static) <<http://www.pei.org/static>>.

#### **Safe Refueling and Fuel Handling Guidelines for Consumers**

American Petroleum Institute and the Petroleum Equipment Institute have provided the following consumer refueling and fuel safety guidelines that will help keep you and your family safe when refueling your vehicle or filling up gasoline storage containers:

- Turn off your vehicle engine while refueling. Put your vehicle in park and/or set the emergency brake. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as a camper or trailer heater, cooking units, or pilot lights.
- Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump or when using gasoline anywhere else.
- Use only the refueling latch provided on the gasoline dispenser nozzle, - never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open.
- Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling.
- In the unlikely event a static-caused fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the station attendant immediately.
- Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage.

- **Avoid prolonged breathing of gasoline vapors. Use gasoline only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air. Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.**
- **When dispensing gasoline into a container, use only an approved portable container and place it on the ground when refueling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled while inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.**
- **Only store gasoline in approved containers as required by federal or state authorities. Never store gasoline in glass or any other unapproved containers.**
- **When filling a portable container, manually control the nozzle valve throughout the filling process. Fill a portable container slowly to decrease the chance of static electricity buildup and minimize spilling or splattering.**
- **Fill container no more than 95 percent full to allow for expansion.**
- **Place cap tightly on the container after filling - do not use containers that do not seal properly.**
- **If gasoline spills on the container, make sure that it has evaporated before you place the container in your vehicle. Report spills to the attendant.**
- **When transporting gasoline in a portable container make sure it is secured against tipping and sliding, and never leave it in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.**
- **Never siphon gasoline by mouth or put gasoline in your mouth for any reason. Gasoline can be harmful or fatal if swallowed. If someone swallows gasoline, do not induce vomiting. Contact a doctor immediately.**
- **Keep gasoline away from your eyes and skin; it may cause irritation. Remove gasoline-soaked clothing immediately.**
- **Use gasoline as a motor fuel only. Never use gasoline to wash your hands or as a cleaning solvent.**
- **And finally, a reminder to not use cell phones or smoking while refueling your vehicle.**