

Vehicle Refueling

Here are some “refueling safety guidelines” that will help keep you safe when refueling your vehicle or filling up gasoline storage containers:

- Only workers with appropriate WHIMS training, including specific reference to the specific Material Safety Data Sheet for the fuel being used, may refuel vehicles and/or equipment.
- Approach pumps slowly and using caution. NO CELL PHONES.
- Ensure sufficient space is left between vehicle and dispenser.
- Put your vehicle in park and/or set the emergency brake. Turn off your vehicle engine while refueling. Disable or turn off any auxiliary sources of ignition such as hot box heater, or other type of equipment with pilot lights.
- Discharge any electric static charge that may have been developed on your person.
- Do not smoke, light matches or lighters while refueling at the pump or when using fuel anywhere else.
- Use only the refueling latch provided on the fuel dispenser nozzle – never jam the refueling latch on the nozzle open.
- If a static-caused fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the management immediately. Call 911.
- Do not over-fill or top off your vehicle tank, which can cause fuel spillage.
- Avoid prolonged breathing of fuel vapors. Use fuel only in open areas that get plenty of fresh air. Keep your face away from the nozzle or container opening.
- Never siphon fuel by mouth nor 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.
- Use fuel as a motor fuel only. Never use fuel to wash your hands or as a cleaning solvent.
- Never allow children to operate the pump.
- Never leave the vehicle unattended while refueling and never use a device to hold the discharge lever in the open position. Ensure that the delivery nozzle has been properly returned to the pump after filling.

Filling Portable Containers:

- Only store fuel in approved containers as required by SCA or ULC standards. Never store fuel in glass or any other unapproved containers.
- If using metal containers, make sure that they are properly bonded and grounded to prevent static discharge.
- When dispensing fuel into an approved container place it on the ground while refueling to avoid a possible static electricity ignition of fuel vapors. Containers should never be filled while inside a building, vehicle or its truck, the bed of a pickup truck or the floor of a trailer.
- 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 build up and minimize spilling or splattering.
- Fill container no more than 95% full to allow for expansion.

- Place cap tightly on the container after filling – do not use containers that do not seal properly.
- If the fuel spills on the container, make sure that it have evaporated before you place the container in your vehicle. Report spills to the office.
- When transporting fuel 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 leave the container unattended while refueling and never use a device to hold the discharge lever in the open position. Ensure that the deliver nozzle has been properly returned to the pump after filling.

Static electricity:

Static electricity-related incidents at “refueling” outlets are extremely unusual, but the potential for them to happen appears to be the highest during cool and dry climate conditions. In rare circumstances, these static related incidents have resulted in brief flash fires occurring at the fill point. Motorists can take steps to minimize these and other potential fueling hazards by following safe refueling procedures all year long.

- Motorists should not get back into their vehicles while pumping fuel. It may be a temptation to get back in the vehicle when it is cold, but the average fill-up takes only a few minutes, and staying outside greatly minimizes the likelihood of any static electricity build-up that could be discharged at the nozzle.

A build-up of static electricity can be caused by re-entering a vehicle during fueling, particularly in cool or cold and dry climate conditions. If the motorist then returns to the vehicle fill pipe during refueling, the static may discharge at the fill point, causing a flash fire or small sustained fire with refueling vapors.

- Motorists who cannot avoid getting back into the vehicle should always first touch a metal part of the vehicle with a bare hand, such as the door, or some other metal surface, away from the fill point upon exiting the vehicle.

