FILLING UP DIESELING EQUIPMENT

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Refueling is a hazardous activity. The hazards are greater when highly flammable fuels such as petrol are being dispensed, because petrol releases flammable vapors that expand into the atmosphere.

WHAT'S THE DANGER?

When a flammable liquid flows, static electricity is generated from the friction between dissimilar materials (e.g. the fuel and the metal fuel filler neck). When the static electricity discharges, it produces sparks which can ignite the fuel vapors. The fuel dispensing pumps found at service stations and the fuel filler necks of motor vehicles are earthed to minimize and control the static electricity produced during normal vehicle refueling.

The Dangers of Static Electricity

- invisible and unpredictable.
- discharged in the form of a spark which can ignite flammable materials.
- a natural phenomenon that cannot be prevented but can be controlled.
- rarely understood by most people.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The risk of refueling fires is greater when fuel is dispensed into portable containers. The following should be observed to control the effects of static electricity and to control the risk of fire when refueling portable containers and other plant:

- Always read and observe the safety signs at service stations.
- Never use unapproved containers to store fuel.
- Always use a plastic fuel container that complies with AS2906 or an appropriate metal container with a well-sealed lid.
- Use only containers with serviceable caps / lids and seals.
- Always place the fuel container on the ground before filling with flammable liquid. This will discharge any static electricity prior to refueling.
- Never fill a container in the boot of a car, or in the tray, or on the tailgate of a utility, particularly if it is fitted with a plastic tray liner.
- Fill containers slowly to avoid overflow and spillages.
- Do not lock the refueling trigger "on".
- Do not fill portable containers to more than 95% full; this allows for expansion.
- Secure portable fuel containers against transit damage.
- Avoid refueling petrol operated equipment (mowers, generator sets, jet skis, etc.) while located within a utility tray.

HANBOOK OF FUELING/DIESELING PRACTICES

DO's

- Turn off vehicle ignition.
- Place vehicle in gear and engage brake.
- Note the location of fire extinguishers.
- Put nozzle and hose back in the proper place.
- Report all leaks as soon as possible. If a vehicle or piece of machinery leaks diesel, contain the spill using proper spill control procedures.

- Guard against over-dieseling.

DONT'S

- Do not smoke, within 7.5 meters (25') of fuel.
- Do not cause spillage of any amount.
- Do not leave nozzle unattended while fueling.
- Do not fully top up fuel tank.
- Do not diesel equipment near waterways.
- Do not diesel on asphalt.
- Do not diesel where a source of ignition is present.

FINAL WORD

The storage of petrol may pose several risks: Fire/explosion, environmental damage, health effects when handled by individuals.

QUIZ

1. **The reason why hazards are great when flammable fuels are being dispensed is because petrol releases flammable vapors into the atmosphere.**

   - True
   - False

2. **Static electricity discharges are not potent or strong enough to produce sparks to ignite the flammable fuel vapors of the petrol.**

   - True
   - False

3. **The risk of refueling is greater when fuel is dispensed into portable containers.**

   - True
   - False

4. **Do not fill portable containers to more than 95% of its capacity in order to allow for expansion.**

   - True
   - False

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You and your 14 year old teenage son have driven into your local service station to gas-up. It was a self-service operation and as you were starting the process of fueling, you got an important call from your boss. You told your young son to continue the re-fueling as you took your call from inside of the facility. You were concerned about safety of all concerned but yielded to your business and the boss. Was this the correct decision?

What would you do?

BEFORE THE TALK - TIPS

Before the Meeting Preparation Tips

- Pass around the attendance sheets.

Be prepared to discuss:

- Safe work practices and polices passed around pertaining to Filling up Dieseling Equipment protocols and programs industry - wide and at your location.
- Proper reporting procedures relating to accidents, injuries, illnesses, fatalities, near misses / close calls including hazards and concerns at your location.

Other:

- Bring to the meeting an employee who was injured and suffered burn injuries when he was re-fueling a portable container and did not follow safe procedures.
- Lead a discussion with a Q and A why this particular employee who re-fuelled the portable container was injured and what should have been done to prevent the accident/injuries
- Have workers at this location been taught safe re-fueling practices and are those practices implemented?

AFTER THE TALK- *CHECKLIST*

PROVIDED FOLLOW-UP TO WORKERS THAT DID

POORLY ON THE QUIZ
NAME: _____
_____
DATE: _____

OBSERVED WORKERS
TASK(S): _____
_____
DATE: _____

REFRESHER TRAINING
TOPIC(S): _____
_____
DATE: _____

OTHER (DESCRIBE): _____
MEETING DATE: _____
LOCATION: _____

NOTES

ANSWERS:

1. True

2. False

3. True

4. True

ATTENDANCE

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
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INSTRUCTOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

SAFETY TALK: _____