



Static Charges at Gas Pumps

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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General Details

The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign in an attempt to make people aware of “fires” as a result of static electricity at gas pumps. They have researched 150 incidents of these fires.

Research Results

Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas, when finished, the customer went back to pull the nozzle out and a fire started as a result of a “static charge”.

As well, most customers had on rubber-soled shoes.

It is the vapors that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.

There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models.

Some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the gas station and to the customer.

Seventeen fires occurred before during or immediately after the gas cap was removed - “before” fueling began.

Recommendation

NEVER get back into your vehicle while refueling. If you absolutely have to get in your vehicle while refueling, make sure when you get out that you close the door “touching the metal” before pulling out the nozzle. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you remove the nozzle.

Never use cell phone when pumping gas.