



TAILGATE SAFETY

Refueling of Equipment

Look around your worksite. You will find portable generators, water pumps, air compressors, chain saws, mowers, trimmers, etc. You'll also see pickup trucks, vans, dump trucks, flat bed trucks, motor graders, bulldozers, cranes, etc. The list could go on and on depending on the size and type of job.

Who refuels the small equipment, large equipment, motor vehicles or machinery? Internal combustion engines all run on some type of fuel. There are some things to remember when you are refueling:

- You are dealing with flammable liquids which form vapors that can easily catch fire or explode. Never Smoke Around Flammable Liquids, put all smoking materials out prior to any refueling and remind co-workers to do the same.
- Let small engines cool off before you start the refueling. This is hard to do because the engine always seems to run out of fuel in the middle of what you are trying to get done, but a hot engine and flammables may cause a flash fire or explosion. A few minutes to let the engine cool down could prevent serious injury or even a fatality.
- When dispensing flammable liquids make sure to use only approved storage containers. Use a safety can to store flammables. Never use glass bottles or plastic milk jugs - they are not approved. The container should have a self-closing lid and a label describing the contents.
- When dispensing from large storage tanks or at a fuel pump, the same safety rules apply.
- Shut any motor off prior to filling the fuel tank.
- Report fuel spills to your supervisor immediately. Do not clean it up unless you are properly trained.
- Be aware of where the nearest fire extinguisher is and make sure it is the proper type.
- Know what to do in case of a flammable liquid related fire or explosion (evacuation measures, who to call, first aid, etc.)
- If you are refueling in an enclosed area, make sure there is plenty of ventilation so vapors do not accumulate.

Practice fuel safety at all times (both on and off the job). Follow all your employer's rules and you won't get burned!

Training Tips: a) Show employees the correct flammable containers to use. b) Show employees the correct fire extinguisher to have on hand when refueling and how to use it (P.A.S.S.). c) Outline company emergency procedures related to fires/explosions.



North Coast Builders Exchange ~Tailgate Topics
Ph (707) 542-9502 **Fax (707) 542-2027**