

Flammable liquids (such as fuels, solvents, and cleaning products) can ignite with explosive force, causing extensive property damage, injury, disability or death to anyone nearby. Every year we read in the newspaper about someone being burned or killed as a result of the accidental ignition of flammable liquids. In Minnesota, we have lost \$40 million, 12 people have died, and 141 others were injured due to flammable liquid fires over the last 5 years.

Flammable liquids must be stored in approved plastic, or metal containers. All containers used for the storage of any flammable liquid must be clearly labeled with the name of the material stored inside.

It is very important not to store or use flammable liquids around an ignition source. The vapors, not the liquid itself, ignite. Ignition sources for flammable liquids can be any open flame including a lit cigarette, a lighter, and turning a light switch on or off. Static electricity, which can be caused simply by walking, is another source of ignition.

Always use flammable liquids in a well ventilated area, and don't use the liquids unless you've been properly trained to do so.



www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire

In association with



www.fire.state.mn.us

Flammable Liquid Safety



Fueling
up
Safely



TAKE A PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Start by making a commitment to being aware of your surroundings and setting a good example. This will help you and others change unsafe behaviors you may not even be aware that you have.

About static discharge

Static electricity-related incidents at retail gasoline outlets are becoming more common. The potential for them to happen appears to be the highest during cool or cold and dry climate conditions.

Motorists should not get back into their vehicles during refueling. It may be a temptation to get back in the car for any number of reasons. But the average fill-up takes only two minutes, and staying outside the vehicle will greatly minimize the likelihood of any build-up of static electricity that could be discharged at the nozzle.

PEOPLE WHO NEED TO FUEL GASOLINE POWERED EQUIPMENT COMMONLY USE PORTABLE CONTAINERS

- Turn off your vehicle engine. Put your vehicle in park. 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.
- Before filling, always remove the containers from the vehicle and place them on the ground at a safe distance from the vehicle.
- Touch the container with the gas dispenser nozzle before removing the container lid (provides another path to dissipate static charge to ground).
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the container inlet when filling
- Never fill a container completely; rather, fill the container to 80% capacity. If the container is labeled as one gallon, only put a maximum of one gallon of liquid into it, even if there is extra space left in the container. Leaving a vapor space in the can will allow the liquid to expand when the temperature changes. An explosion could result if the container is completely full.
- Tightly secure gas can cap and when transporting a flammable liquid in a vehicle, place the container in the bed of a pickup truck or the trunk of a car, never in the passenger compartment of the vehicle.

- The potential release of vapors inside the passenger compartment can put the people inside the vehicle in danger.
- Always store flammable liquid cans in a fireproof cabinet or storage locker when not in use. This will restrict the release of ignitable vapors.

ADDITIONAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

- Do not over-fill or top-off your vehicle tank, which can cause gasoline spillage.
- Never allow children under licensed driving age to operate the pump.
- 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.
- Never siphon gasoline 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 or and emergency medical service provider 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.