



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

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## Safety Tips: Farm Fuel Safety

As you travel around the state and campus, you will see that our stations keep their fuel tanks in good condition, and with the SPCC program that we installed several years ago, they maintain the secondary containments in pretty good condition. However, occasionally we see the ground around the pumps that have received some fuel residue due to leaking nozzles or overflows from filling vehicles. We try to alert the folks when we see evidence of these small leaks/spills so that they can clean them up and reapply fresh soil or gravel to replace the contaminated soil as well.

Over the past several years, underground tanks in many locations have been changed out to above-ground tanks which have a few advantages over the in-ground tanks. With in-ground tanks, you have to deal with contaminated soil and contaminated ground water from the leaks. With above-ground tanks leaks are easier to detect and placement and replacement is much easier. However, with aboveground tanks with the advantages mentioned above, there are some drawbacks or slight disadvantages with them as you will see below:

- ✓ Without the recommended secondary containment and/or safety posts around the tanks, vehicles can sideswipe or back into them. The revised standards do require containment barriers built around them for harnessing leaks or spills. With our units, this is a minor problem as we have concrete containment for all of them.
- ✓ Trespassers can spot the tanks if they can pass close enough to see them or from visits to the station. A deterrent to these trespassers can be reduced by installing security lights in the area and with the required signage affixed to the tanks relaying the dangers. Also, security locks on the tanks and pumps will help to deter the potential problem.
- ✓ Leaking and spillage, however minor, can be a problem if left unattended. If fuel pads or containment at the pumps are installed and the nozzles maintained, the potential for leakage can be greatly reduced.
- ✓ Measures to be sure that the tanks are stable enough at the base to withstand the potential of high winds or tornadoes.
- ✓ Tanks are subject to developing higher vapor pressures during the hot seasons, so vents need to be installed to relieve this pressure. Also, they need to be inspected periodically to be sure that there are no obstacles blocking them.
- ✓ When pulling into a tank or pump to refuel- turn off the engine and distinguish your cigarette, if you happen to be having one.

### GASOLINE CONTAINERS-

- Gasoline containers can be dangerous. It is a flammable liquid and will ignite and burn quickly.
- Extreme care should be used in handling them. Static electricity will build up in the container with rough handling such as stirring or agitating the fuel while refilling.
- Always refill portable tanks with them while remaining in contact with the ground. Refrain from filling them in the trunk of a car or bed of a vehicle.
- Approved metal containers are recommended and should be labeled "For the storage and transportation of gasoline." However, in a tight an approved plastic container, labeled "For the storage and transportation of gasoline."
- Refrain from ever using bleach jugs or glass jugs.
- Refuel engines after they cool down.
- If you have multiple containers, be sure to label each one as to the contents that it will be used. Example: Label the gasoline, diesel, mixed fuel (for small appliances).

### LP GAS-

- Fires or explosions with LP gas usually derive from leaks or a failure within the system or from accidents where tanks or lines have ruptured.
- Large LP tanks should be located at least 50 feet from the nearest building and at least 20 feet from other aboveground fuel tanks.
- Provide and maintain base supports so that they won't tip over or settle into the ground so that the connections won't rupture or break.
- Equip the tank with a liquid-fill hose and a vapor-return hose. If the vapor escapes out into the atmosphere, a fire or explosion is possible. When filling the tank, the vapor from the top should be fed back into the tank.
- Be alert for leaks. Protect the gauges and regulators from the weather and dirt. If you smell the gas, turn off the valves at the tank, open windows and doors to ventilate the building. Don't turn on anything that is electrical. Get the building cleared and call a technician to mitigate the leak.

### OTHER SAFETY TIPS-

- If fuel is spilled on your clothing, get outside and away from fuel sources. Allow the clothing to dry. If the clothing is completely saturated, obviously you need to exchange into dry. Wash the soiled to remove the gas and wash the affected areas on your body to eliminate the chance of skin irritation.
- If you have to siphon fuel, get a pump. Don't use your mouth. A mouth of gas could be fatal, especially if it leaks into your lungs. Avoid inhaling an excessive amount of gas vapors.
- When servicing equipment and vehicles, get into the habit of checking all fuel connections for leaks and/or adjustments.

**TO AVOID A SCENE- KEEP YOUR  
FUEL AREAS CLEAN!  
ACCIDENTS HURT ~~~  
SAFETY DOESN'T!!**