



# MAFES Dawg Tracks

July 20, 2015



*Safety Tips:  
Farm Fuel Safety*



Accidents in the handling, use and storage of gasoline, gasohol, diesel fuel, LP gas and other petroleum products such as; solvents, paint thinners and naphtha can result in serious fires and explosions. The chances of this happening can be greatly reduced by following safety precautions and by keeping fuel storage facilities in top condition.

## FUEL STORAGE-

Gasoline, diesel fuel, liquid petroleum (LP gas), degreasing solvents and paint solvents are common flammables found on farms and ranches. The gases released by these substances can be ignited by open flames and sparks caused by electric motors, static electricity and friction. The key to accident prevention with these materials is to separate the fuel source from the ignition source.

- ✓ Store fuels and fuel handling equipment away from machinery and combustible materials such as hay bales.
- ✓ Keep fuel storage areas well ventilated.
- ✓ Never store fuel in drink or food containers.
- ✓ Label all fuel containers and flammable liquids according to their content.
- ✓ Read and follow storage and safety procedures for flammable substances.
- ✓ Inspect fuel storage containers for leaks and other damages.
- ✓ Never store fuel inside homes or buildings that house personnel.
- ✓ Refrain from transporting fuel in the trunks of cars.

## FUELING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT-

When you're fueling tractors and other equipment, it should be done with strict caution. The three things that cause fires are present: oxygen, flammable material and ignition source. So it is necessary to shut off the engine and turn off equipment when you get ready to fuel or refuel.

- ✓ Position yourself so you can fuel without slipping or becoming fatigued.
- ✓ Remove the fuel cap slowly to allow any inside pressure to dissipate.
- ✓ Use a funnel to prevent spills and splashes.
- ✓ Avoid overfilling. Wipe up spills immediately and allow the excess to evaporate before starting the engine.
- ✓ Store all empty containers as if they are full. Empty containers can still contain vapors.
- ✓ Fuel vehicles and equipment outdoors to prevent accumulation of gases that could happen in enclosed areas.
- ✓ Dispose of rags used to wipe up fuels in an approved container away from heat sources and sparks.

## SAFETY CANS-

- ✓ Gasoline and gasoline mixed fuels should be stored in special spill-resistant cans.
- ✓ Safety cans should be constructed of heavy gauge metal with a cap that automatically closes to prevent spills, in case the can is dropped or tipped over.

- ✓ Safety cans are equipped with a pressure relief valve that releases if the pressure reached between 3 and 5 lbs. per sq. in. They also have a flash arresting screen in the filler opening and pouring spot that reduces the potential for a spark that could cause a fire or explosion.

## LP GAS-

The fire and explosion hazard with LP gas is usually caused by: A systems failure or leaks, improper transfer of liquid gas from one tank to another, or accidents where a line or tank has ruptured. LP tanks can greatly intensify a fire or explosion if they are involved in a grassfire. To reduce the risk of LP fires or explosions:

- ✓ Locate large LP tanks at least 50 feet from the nearest building and 20 feet from other aboveground fuel tanks.
- ✓ Provide and maintain solid foundation supports so that they don't settle and damage gas lines and connections.
- ✓ Maintain the areas around the tanks keeping the grass and weeds cut and not allowing trash or other debris to collect in this area.
- ✓ Equip the tank with a liquid-fill hose and a vapor return hose to prevent gas from escaping into the atmosphere. Protect all the gauges and regulators from the weather.
- ✓ Do not allow kids to play on the tanks for fear of damaging the lines, gauges or connections.

## OTHER SAFETY TIPS-

- ✓ Keep tank vent caps and pressure-relief valves clean and free of debris.
- ✓ If you spill fuel on your clothing, go outside and away from ignition sources to allow the air to dry the garment. If it is more than a little you need to remove the garment and wash the affected area to avoid skin irritation.
- ✓ Use a pump to siphon fuel. Never use your mouth. A mouth full of gasoline or diesel can be fatal, especially if it reached your lungs.
- ✓ Avoid excessive inhalation of Gasoline vapor.
- ✓ Protect your fuel facilities so children or strangers cannot draw out your fuel. Keep gas cans out of reach and don't store fuel in food or drink containers.
- ✓ When you are servicing vehicles or equipment, check the fuel lines for leaks or other damages.
- ✓ Motor oil and grease are far less flammable than gasoline or diesel, but they will burn so it is prudent to keep them away from ignition sources.

**If you follow these safety tips regarding the use of gasoline and/or diesel, it will greatly reduce the potential for a fire or explosion.**

**MOMMA DIDN'T RAISE NO FOOL –  
PRACTICE GOOD SAFETY RULES TO BE  
COOL!  
NO SAFETY ><>< KNOW PAIN  
KNOW SAFETY <>>> NO PAIN**