



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Sunny days and afternoon rain showers mean the grass will be growing faster and chores will need attention. To fuel the machines for many outdoor activities at home or work, we need gasoline.

Following a few safety precautions, while handling this highly flammable liquid, can avoid ruining a beautiful day.

- Before re-fueling, always turn an engine off. For some small engines & gas-powered equipment let it cool down first, hot surfaces can ignite gasoline vapor.
- A fuel container should be filled only 95% full. The remaining air space allows room for the gasoline to expand if it warms up later. Otherwise, expansion could force liquid gasoline out of the container or distort the container.
- Place portable fuel container on the ground during filling. Never fill a container in the bed of a pickup or in the trunk of a car.
- Keep the dispenser nozzle in contact with the fuel tank fill tube. Failure to do so can result in the possible buildup of a static electrical charge and may ignite the gasoline.
- If you get gasoline on your skin, wash with soapy water right away to avoid potential skin irritations.

Storage:

- Gasoline must be stored in an approved fuel container with the lid closed tightly.
- Don't store more fuel than the minimum amount needed.
- Store gasoline in a detached shed or garage that is well ventilated. Do not store gasoline in the living area of a house.
- Never leave a portable gasoline container in direct sunlight.
- Store gasoline away from potential ignition sources (gas pilot lights or flames, electric motors, stoves and heaters, for example) and from combustibles (i.e., paper, rags and cardboard).

Is it safe to use my cell phone at the gas station?

According to the Federal Communications Commission, there is no documented incident where the use of a cell phone was found to cause a fire at a gas station. The causes, where this was initially suspected, ended up being static electricity.

To avoid static electricity buildup:

- ✓ Upon exiting vehicle and before handling the nozzle or fuel door, always touch a metal part of the vehicle such as the door or hood.
- ✓ Do not get back into your vehicle during refueling. If you cannot avoid getting back into the vehicle, upon exiting always touch a metal part of the vehicle away from the fill point before handling the nozzle.

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Sources:

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