

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY BREAKS

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

LOCATION: _____

YOUR SAFETY CONCERNS: _____

DISCUSSION LEADER: _____

Today's Topic: Refueling

How much do you know when it comes to refueling small equipment, large equipment, motor vehicles, or machinery? Internal combustion engines all run on some type of fuel. Take a look around the construction site. What do you see? You will find portable generators, water pumps, air compressors, chain saws, and cut-off saws. Motor vehicles may include: pickup trucks, vans, dump trucks, flat bed trucks, motor graders, bulldozers, cranes, etc. The list could go on and on depending on the size of the job.

The Risks: Burns & Explosions

Fuels, by their nature, are flammable or combustible liquids. The potential for severe burns, or even explosions, is possible. Refueling is often viewed as a mundane, repetitive task but precautions must be taken to prevent a serious injury.

Solution: Safe Handling Procedures

Flammable liquids give off vapors that can easily catch fire or explode. The golden rule is: "NEVER SMOKE AROUND FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS." Put out all ignition sources, well in advance of any refueling, and remind co-workers to do the same. The second rule to remember is to let that small engine 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. Giving the engine a few minutes to 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 off the motor prior to filling the fuel tank. Never fill a container from the back of a pickup truck.

As a construction worker, you have many pieces of equipment that require the use of flammable liquids. Practice fuel safety at all times (both on and off the job). Follow all your employer's rules and report fuel spills to your supervisor immediately. Know where proper fire extinguishers are located (try to have one with you while refueling) and know how to use the extinguisher correctly. Your life may depend on it!

Before dispensing any flammable liquid, be sure the area is well ventilated!

What types of fuels do you use for equipment (on site)?

Describe a proper container for gasoline.
