

Background

Refuelling happens so frequently that it is easy to get complacent about it. However, it must be remembered that diesel and gasoline are designed to cause explosions within an engine. Beyond the act of refuelling, further caution needs to be given to fuel fumes and the possibility of spills.

While it's easy to let your refueling routine slip, it's important to remain alert and aware of the dangers of refuelling.

Fast Fact

Filling a diesel engine with gasoline or a gasoline engine with diesel is a costly mistake. Make sure labels are correct and easy to read.

Work Activity

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Turn off the engine and let it cool down before refuelling.
- Be sure to chock the wheels if there is a risk the machinery may roll.
- Consider wearing gloves and other personal protective equipment while filling up the equipment to prevent fuel contacting skin or eyes.
- Supervise the fuelling.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank.
- Keep the nozzle in the tank for a couple of seconds after stopping to let the nozzle drain.
- Clean up minor spills and allow any spilled fuel on the engine to evaporate before starting.

Fire prevention is the goal when refueling. However, even when following all of the steps as outlined in the work activity, be prepared for the unexpected. Always have an appropriate and fully functional fire extinguisher close by, so you can react quickly to eliminate the danger.

REMEMBER

Smoking, flames or sparks are not permitted in the refuelling area.

Key Points

- Keep fuel tanks clearly labelled to avoid confusion
- Ensure fuelling takes place in a well-ventilated area.
- Ensure a fire extinguisher is present in the fuelling area.
- Be aware of any source that could spark or cause static electricity, this includes moving the nozzle up and down. Grounding out the machinery or dropping mounted equipment to the ground also reduces the risk of static electricity.
- Have available a first aid kit and an eyewash station available. Smoking is prohibited in the workshop

Caution

- Inhalation of low levels of fumes may cause nausea, eye and throat irritation.
- Inhalation of high levels of fumes can result in dizziness, headache, loss of appetite, drowsiness and incoordination.
- Gasoline or diesel left spilled on skin can cause skin irritation, redness and even burns.
- Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water.

Emergency Procedures / Contacts

In case of a minor fuel spill, get the spill kit available and the assistance of workers trained in its use, then tell me / your supervisor.

Our spill kit is kept: _____

In case of a significant fuel spill or fire / explosion, call 911, your local emergency services and tell me / your supervisor.

Other Key Points:

Talk Leader Instructions

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize your talk to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

