

NICOLLET COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

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This month's message is a repeat but with colder weather approaching definitely bears hearing again.

STATIC ELECTRICITY AND REFUELING VEHICLES

While we all know not to leave the vehicle's engine running while refueling and also not to smoke while refueling the American Petroleum Institute (API) has begun compiling reports of refueling fires that cannot be attributed to the above mentioned causes.

Certain portable gasoline containers can build up a static electric charge during transport. Consequently, when the container is not placed on the ground for filling, its static electricity could be discharged, which could then result in a fire when filling begins. Therefore, place containers on the ground during filling and keep the nozzle in contact with the container. Do NOT leave the container inside a vehicle or its trunk, the bed of a pickup truck, or the floor of a trailer, etc. during refueling. Also only use containers of an approved design.

While refueling your vehicle do NOT re-enter the vehicle during refueling. Remain at the vehicle's fueling point even when using the nozzle's hold open latch. Re-entering the vehicle could result in the customer becoming charged with static electricity, which could discharge when the customer returns to remove the nozzle, which in turn could result in a fire.

Lastly, while there seems to be no cases of refueling fires attributable to cell phone use, as a simple precaution, it is highly recommended against using cell phones and similar electrical devices while dispensing motor fuel as the cell phone might cause you to become distracted while refueling either your vehicle or approved fuel container.

STAY SAFE-BE AWARE