



PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER

Dangers of Static Electricity

The Petroleum Equipment Institute has researched 150 cases where static electricity was the cause of a fire at a gas station.

Flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline can build up dangerous static electrical charges on or above the surface of the liquid. This static electrical charge builds up due to the transfer of liquids from one source to another as in the transfer of the gasoline from the pump to the tank of your vehicle. If a flammable vapor-air mixture is present at the surface of gasoline when a person discharges any electrical charge, an explosion or fire can occur.



To help avoid static electricity fires, try to avoid getting back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you have to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out and close the door touching the metal, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

Cell phones may also ignite combustible gases, according to the Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Before using your cell phone, always remember to:

- Read your instruction book. Many cell phone makers print warnings in their user handbooks against using cell phones at construction sites, gas stations, fuel storage sites and chemical factories.
- Turn off your cell phone before entering any construction site or area with a potentially explosive atmosphere. This includes fueling areas at gas stations, below deck on boats, fuel transfer storage facilities, chemical transfer and storage facilities, and areas where the air contains chemicals or particles.
- Do not transport or store flammable gas, liquid or explosives in the same compartment containing your cell phone.

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (888)562-7861

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7