

# safety matters

Toolbox Talks

From your safety partners at Atlantic Pacific Insurance

## Refueling Safety

Though refueling is a common activity, it can be an extremely dangerous task. Not only can improper refueling cause burns, fires or explosions, but the gasoline or diesel itself is also a hazardous substance with the potential for leaks and spills.

Always refuel your equipment in a way that keeps yourself, others and your vehicle safe from damage. Here are some tips to follow when refueling:

### General Guidelines:

- Always concentrate on the task at hand. Do not try to complete other tasks while refueling.
- Stand by the tank so you can act quickly if something goes wrong.
- Do not refuel while smoking, while others are smoking or near any other open flames.
- Do not overfill the fuel tank. 95 percent full is a good guideline for any type of vehicle or container.
- On hot days, allow room in the tank for the fuel to expand.

### Refueling Portable Equipment or a Portable Container:

- Place the container on the ground when refueling, never on the bed of the work vehicle.
- Keep the nozzle in contact with the fuel tank's inlet tube.

- Do not refuel in areas with heavy vehicle or foot traffic.
- Do not refuel in areas that have the potential for spills or fuel ignition.
- Use only approved containers.
- After filling, wipe off the container and ensure the cap is secure and the air vent is tight.

### When Refueling Machinery:

- Turn off the engine and chock the wheels if there is a possibility the equipment or vehicle could roll.
- Do not top off the tank.
- Use only the hold-open latch provided on the pump.

### Rules for Refueling Areas:

- Clearly mark refueling areas to avoid the possibility of accidents, including spills or inadvertent ignition.
- Clean up all spills immediately. If you have to leave a spill unattended, mark off the area to reduce to possibility of slips.
- Make sure there is a fire extinguisher available in the area before you begin fueling and that you know how to use it.
- Keep the entire area unobstructed, making sure equipment can enter and exit the area smoothly and that it is free of garbage and debris.

**Keep the dangers of refueling equipment in mind to prevent potentially fatal accidents.**

