



Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121



60-Second Safety Advisor #4

Safe Filling of Gas Cans

You need a couple of gallons of gas for the lawn mower, so you take your gas can to the local filling station and fill it up. This activity has the potential to completely change your plans for the day (or the next several weeks) because you weren't planning a trip to the emergency room - or an extended stay at the burn center. Static electricity generated during the fueling process can cause a big explosion. Thousands of serious injuries have occurred to pick-up truck owners filling metal gas cans which were sitting on the bed liner. It seems that the gasoline spontaneously ignites due to a static electricity buildup caused by the plastic bed liner. The insulating effect of the bed liners prevent the static charge, generated by the flowing fuel, from going to ground. As this charge builds, it can create a static spark between the can and the gas nozzle. Explosions have also occurred by placing the gas container in the trunk of a car, on the seat of a motor cycle, and similar situations. To avoid this hazard, always place the gas can on the ground while filling it with gasoline - this will allow the static charge to go to ground and allow you to return home safely.

