

Self-Service Gasoline Stations

Fire Safety Guidelines

Self-service gasoline station operations present significant fire hazards. Safety guidelines which, will reduce the likelihood of a fire, are as follows:

- As a visible reminder to customers, signs reading “No Smoking” and “Shut Off Engine” should be posted prominently at all fuel pumps. Smoking and open flames should not be permitted in fueling and flammable liquid receiving areas. The motors of all vehicles being fueled should be shut off during fueling operations. These rules should be strictly enforced by all station personnel.
- Emergency power cutoffs for gas pumps should be clearly identified, easily accessible, and located away from the pumps (but not more than 100 feet away).
- To protect against possible collision damage, all gasoline and diesel fuel pumps should either be mounted on concrete islands or surrounded by protective barriers.
- Controls should be provided so that pumps will operate only after dispensing nozzles have been removed from the pump brackets and pump switches have been manually started. These same controls should also stop the pumps when the nozzles are returned to the brackets.
- Pump nozzles should be of the automatic closing type without hold-open latches.
- Impact valves, incorporating fusible links designed to close automatically in case of severe impact or fire, should be provided and installed properly in the dispensing supply line at the bases of all pumps.
- Rebuilt hose nozzle valves may be used if the nozzle meets certain requirements, such as those approved by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. or Factory Mutual Engineering Corp.
- Customers should not be permitted to pump gasoline into improper containers, such as glass or plastic jars and bottles, but only into approved metal containers, designed for such use.
- At least one portable, multipurpose dry chemical fire extinguisher should be provided for each two pumps. Fire extinguishers should be located in a prominent place, within fifty feet of the pumps, and clearly marked.

In the event of a gasoline spill:

- Spill should be cleaned up immediately.
- Any type of open flame or spark, including electric switches, should be avoided until vapors have dispersed.
- If there is a large spill, all electrical power for the pumps should be turned off, and the local fire department should be called. Gasoline should not be flushed into the street unless approved by the fire department.
- Gasoline should not be used as a cleaner/ solvent.
- Covered metal containers should be provided for combustible trash and greasy and oily rags and towels. Containers should be labeled as to their purpose and emptied daily.
- Adequate lighting should be provided around the pump islands for nighttime fueling.

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The information presented in this publication is intended to provide guidance and is not intended as a legal interpretation of any federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations applicable to your business. The loss prevention information provided is intended only to assist policyholders in the management of potential loss producing conditions involving their premises and/or operations based on generally accepted safe practices. In providing such information, Great American does not warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. It is not intended as an offer to write insurance for such conditions or exposures. The liability of Great American Insurance Company and its affiliated insurers is limited to the terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies underwritten by any of them.

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