



## DATA COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS

DCP Safety Bulletin DATE: September, 2002 SUBJECT: Preventing Fires At the Gas Pump

*As you probably guessed, the Staff of the DCP Safety Bulletin was on vacation last month and that explains why there was no Bulletin. But fear not, we're back and waiting for your requests for new Safety Bulletin subjects. Send them to [staff@consultdcp.com](mailto:staff@consultdcp.com)*

The Petroleum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to make people aware of



fires that start at gas pumps as a result of static electricity. They have researched 150 cases of these fires. The results were surprising and alarming:

1) Out of 150 cases, almost all were women.

2) Most cases involved the driver getting back

into their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas. When they finished and went back to pull the nozzle out the car, a fire started as a result of static.

3) Most of these drivers wore rubber-soled shoes.



- 4) Most men don't get back into their vehicles until they are finished pumping the gas which is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- 6) Gas vapors ignited by static charges start the fires.
- 7) There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during refueling. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, the station, and the customer.
- 8) Seventeen of the fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Here are a few simple guidelines for safety at the gas pump:

- Of course, never smoke while re-fueling; in fact don't even extinguish smoking materials on the grounds of the gas station.
- Don't get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas.
- Don't use a cell phone while pumping gas.
- If you absolutely must get back into your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door **TOUCHING THE METAL OF THE CAR** before you remove the nozzle. This way the static from your body is discharged before you remove the nozzle.

**More information is available at <http://www.pei.org>. Click on "Stop Static".**