



ALCA
ARIZONA LANDSCAPE
CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION



Safe Fueling of Vehicles, Equipment & Containers

Landscaping crews often need to add fuel to their vehicles and equipment. Gasoline and diesel fuels are volatile, have low flashpoints and, if not handled properly, can result in injury or even loss of life. In addition, liquid fuels release vapors that are flammable and can reach ignition sources that are not near the fuel tank or container.

Safety and Environmental Requirements

- When using a pump, always identify the emergency shutoff prior to operation.
- Keep all ignition sources away from the fuel. This includes cell phones, personal electronic devices, matches and lighters.
- The employer and/or employee are required to report all petroleum spills to the relevant environmental authority in your area.

Health Requirements

- Petroleum products in liquid or vapor form can act as a carcinogen or poison or as an asphyxiant, anesthetic or irritant. Due to the adverse reactions of petroleum on the body, it is important that you wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Do not inhale petroleum vapors.
- Keep liquid petroleum off the skin and out of eyes.
- If petroleum gets on your skin, wash that area immediately and replace your clothing, if necessary.
- If petroleum gets in your eyes, flush with water and seek medical attention.
- If petroleum gets on your clothes, change immediately.

Fueling Vehicles/Equipment/Containers

- Do not smoke when fueling vehicles, equipment and containers.
- Identify the location of the emergency shutoff.
- Turn off the vehicle.
- Turn off cell phones and other devices and leave in the cab with the doors closed.
- Make sure you put on your PPE. Wear PPE, such as gloves, long sleeve garments, and eye protection to protect the skin and eyes.
- Discharge static electricity before fueling by touching the metal of the vehicle to the metal of the pump.
- Insert the nozzle fully into the vehicle; maintain contact between the metal nozzle and the tank to prevent static electricity.
- Maintain positive control of the nozzle; never prop the handle open for unattended pumping.
- Fill the tank to 95 percent capacity, leaving 5 percent unfilled to allow for expansion of the fuel in warmer temperatures.
- Use only approved gasoline containers in good condition.
- If fueling an approved container, place it on the ground. Never fuel a container that is in the storage area of a truck or still strapped to a truck. Containers should always be on the ground.

Through the OSHA and National Association of Landscape Professionals Alliance, NALP developed this card for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.

