

Risk Insights

Advice for you and your business

Gasoline Transferring



Transferring and handling gasoline is one of the most dangerous activities in a repair garage. If this process is not completed properly, serious fires can result. The opportunity to extinguish a fire is short, and usually there is only time to evacuate the building. Burn injuries are common.

Why is gasoline so dangerous?

It's all a matter of flashpoint. This is a technical term, but it's not complicated. Flashpoint is the lowest temperature at which flammable vapours are produced in ignitable concentrations by a liquid. For gasoline, **the flashpoint is -43°C** .

An open pail of gasoline at room temperature releases flammable vapours into the atmosphere. The area above and around the pail is filled with invisible and explosive vapours. A spark, trouble light, static electricity or a cigarette can ignite the vapours.

How is gasoline transferred safely?

- Vapour containment is key. If there are no flammable vapours in the atmosphere, a fire cannot occur.
- A gas caddy is a large safety container with added features to siphon or dispense gasoline safely.
- The safety features include a two-way hand pump, flame arrestors, and a bonding cable to eliminate static electricity.

Any shop involved in gasoline fuel system service work, including replacing fuel pumps or changing gasoline tanks, must have a gas caddy or enclosed pumping equipment.

(Reference: provincial adoptions of Section 4.1.8.4 "Fuel Tanks of Vehicles" of the National Fire Code of Canada).

We recommend:

- Ensuring you have a gas caddy if you are involved in any gasoline transferring.
- Establishing and reviewing proper gasoline transferring procedures with all staff.
- Ensuring all new employees receive immediate training on gasoline transferring.

Federated Insurance

We believe that knowing your business matters. With industry specific expertise and decades of experience, we can provide valuable insights, consulting and training to help keep your business safe.

- We specialize in your market and work with you directly
- 100% Canadian-owned
- Insuring companies for almost a century
- Member of the Fairfax family
- Endorsed by more than 50 trade associations

www.federated.ca | 1.844.628.6800