



There is a need to increase public awareness of fires as a result of “static” (that is, static electricity) at gas pumps. 150 fires have been researched. The results were very surprising:

1. Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
2. Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle while the nozzle was still pumping gas and when filling was finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire was started as a result of static.
3. Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
4. There were 29 fires where the vehicle was reentered and the nozzle was touched during refueling from a variety of makes and models, some resulting in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station, and to the customer.
5. Seventeen fires that occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.



Damage done to a vehicle from a fire started by static electricity.

- \* Most men never get back in their vehicle until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
- \* Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas.
- \* It is the vapors that come out of the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
- \* NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get in your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure you get out, close the door **TOUCHING THE METAL**, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way the static from your body will be discharged before you ever remove the nozzle.

As mentioned earlier, The Petroleum Equipment Institute, along with several other companies now, are really trying to make the public aware of these dangers. You can find out more information by going to [www.pei.org](http://www.pei.org). Once here, click in the center of the screen where it says “Stop Static.”

Please make sure your workers and family are aware of these dangers, especially those who have kids in the car with them while pumping gas. If this were to happen to them, they may not be able to get the children out in time.