3D Safety talks

FROM THE ISAO SAFETY COMMITTEE: FUEL HANDLING + STORAGE

Fuel is used daily by Arborists to power chainsaws, chippers, stump grinders, and other equipment. While fuel is necessary for operations, it also presents several hazards if handled or stored improperly. Gasoline and mixed fuels are highly flammable and can ignite if exposed to sparks, open flames, or hot equipment. Improper storage, spills, or careless handling can also create environmental hazards and safety risks for workers and the public. Safe fuel handling practices help prevent fires, injuries, and damage to equipment. Every crew member who handles fuel must understand the hazards and follow proper procedures when transporting, storing, and refueling equipment.

DESCRIBE the Hazards

- Gasoline and mixed fuel are highly flammable and can ignite easily if exposed to heat, sparks, or open flames.
- Fuel vapors can accumulate in enclosed areas and create a fire or explosion hazard.
- Spilled fuel can ignite on hot engines or exhaust components.
- Improper containers or damaged fuel cans may leak or rupture during transport.
- Fuel spills on the ground can create slip hazards and environmental contamination.
- Static electricity during refueling can cause sparks if proper precautions are not taken.
- Smoking or open flames near fuel storage areas greatly increase fire risk.
- Improperly labeled or mixed fuels can damage equipment or create unsafe operating conditions.
- Improperly handled containers or overfilling can cause spillage onto work clothes.
- Improperly stored containers can spill onto ropes, rigging gear and other equipment.

DISCUSS Control Measures

- Store fuel in approved, clearly labeled fuel containers designed for gasoline or mixed fuel.
- Keep fuel containers tightly sealed when not in use to prevent spills and vapor release.
- Store fuel in designated areas away from ropes, climbing gear, ignition sources, heat, or direct sunlight.
- Allow equipment to cool before refueling to prevent ignition from hot surfaces.
- Refuel equipment in well-ventilated areas away from sparks or open flames.
- Use funnels or spouts to prevent spills during refueling.
- Clean up fuel spills immediately using appropriate absorbent materials.
- Never smoke or allow open flames near fuel storage or refueling areas.
- Secure fuel containers during transport to prevent tipping or leaking.

DEMONSTRATE Knowledge

- Workers should know where fuel is stored and understand proper storage procedures.
- Employees should recognize approved fuel containers and proper labeling requirements.
- Crew members should know safe refueling procedures for chainsaws and equipment.
- Workers should understand the importance of allowing equipment to cool before fueling.
- Employees should know the location of spill kits and fire extinguishers on company vehicles.
- Crew members should report damaged containers, leaks, or fuel spills to supervisors immediately.

Date: _____

Location: _____

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Presenter: _____

MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY

(Each participant is to sign below)

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ISA ONTARIO