



**Today's discussion is from the
Miscellaneous Category.**

Static Electricity Hazards

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has reported incidents of fire spontaneously igniting when workers attempted to fill portable gasoline cans in the backs of pickup trucks equipped with plastic bed liners, or in cars with carpeted surfaces.

- These fires result from the buildup of static electricity. The insulating effect of the bed liner prevents the static charge generated by the flowing gasoline from grounding. The discharge of this buildup to the grounded nozzle may cause a spark and ignite the gasoline. Both ungrounded metal (most hazardous) and plastic gas containers have been involved in these incidents.

- To prevent this from occurring, NIOSH recommends:
 - Always place the gas can on the ground before refueling.
 - Touch can with gas dispenser nozzle before removing can lid.
 - Keep gas dispenser nozzle in contact with can inlet when filling.
 - Do not re-enter your vehicle when refueling, so as to prevent static discharge from occurring while moving across carpeted surfaces.

References:

[Natl. Institute for Occupational Safety and Health](#)

Have an idea? Have feedback? Share it.

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