

Get a Safe Handle on Fueling. PART I

IT'S RISKY BUSINESS, HANDLING FUEL...

...OPEN FLAMES, STATIC ELECTRICITY OR SPARKS CAN SET OFF FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS...

...LIQUID FUEL CAN IRRITATE YOUR SKIN AND EYES...

...IN COLD WEATHER, SUPER-COOLED FUEL CAN INFLICT FROSTBITE ON BARE SKIN.

ALL GOOD REASONS TO PRACTICE SAFETY WHEN YOU'RE WORKING AROUND YOUR M978 HEMTT TANKER.

WE'VE PUT TOGETHER SOME GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING FUEL SAFELY...

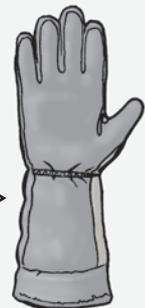
Dress the Part

FUEL HANDLERS, MAKE SURE YOU'RE DRESSED FOR THE PART BY WEARING PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)...

- Industrial safety goggles with a seal that holds them snugly against your face.
- Fuel handler's gloves.

Size	NSN 8415-01-529-
Small	2612
Medium	2618
Large	2621
X-large	2624
XX-large	2638

Fuel handler's glove



- Cold weather petroleum handler's gloves

Size	NSN 8415-01-
X-small	475-9987
Small	466-3531
Medium	466-3586
Large	466-3587
X-large	475-9981

Cold weather petroleum handler's glove



- Hearing protection you'd normally wear in your shop or motor pool.
- You might even think about ordering a fire-resistant lightweight performance hood, NSN 8415-01-576-7524. It protects your face, ears and neck.

PMCS in the TMs

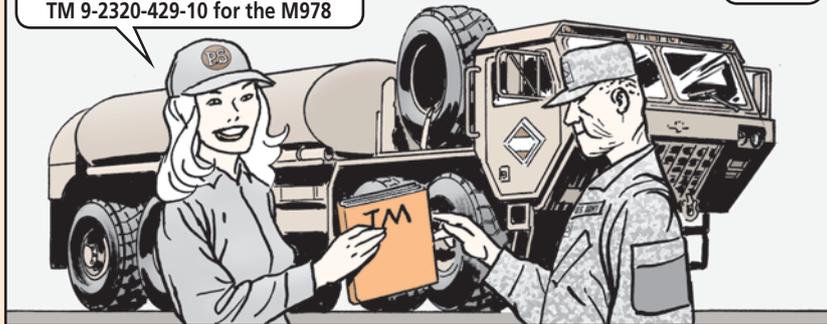
BEFORE HANDLING FUEL, DO THE BEFORE PMCS BY THE BOOK. SEE CHAP 4 OF THESE MANUALS...

TM 9-2320-339-10 for the M978A4
TM 9-2320-348-10 for the M978A2
TM 9-2320-429-10 for the M978

YOU'LL FIND THE TMS ON THE USAMC LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITY ETMS ONLINE WEBSITE...

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/etms/online.cfm>

YOU'LL ALSO FIND THEM ON EM 0038.



Liquid and Vapor

Fuel leaks do more than waste resources and foul the environment. They're a fire hazard. A hot engine can ignite leaking fuel. Clothing wet with fuel can catch fire from the static electricity on your body and clothes. Metal scraping pavement causes sparks that can also set fuel ablaze.

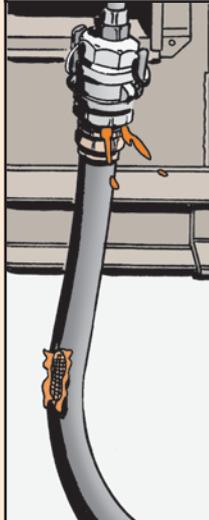
Inspect the fuel servicing hose for holes, tears or dry rot—prime places where leaks occur. Make sure the fuel service nozzle has a gasket. Inspect it for tears, cracks or dryness. Clean up any leaks you find around your truck. Ask field-level maintenance to replace or repair leaking equipment.

See to it your unit has an SOP for fuel leaks and spills. It's not enough to know the SOP. You need to practice it. Always keep a spill kit on your HEMTT. Make sure the kit has absorbent pads, pillows, socks and dry sweep.

One more thing: When you use the fuel service nozzle, put a drip pan under it to catch overflow or drips.

Fuel leaks you can spot. Fuel vapors you can't. You've got to sniff them out. Liquid fuel evaporates, forms vapors and mixes with air. It's especially dangerous in areas that are poorly ventilated. Even an empty fuel tank may still have some lingering vapors mixed with air. Add a flame or spark to the mix and it could explode.

Look at fuel hose for leaks, holes and tears



BE ALERT TO LIQUID FUEL LEAKS AND FUEL VAPORS AROUND YOUR TANKER.

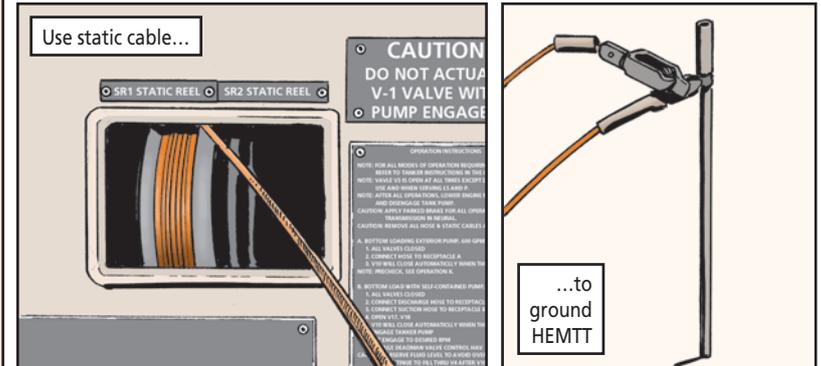


Static Electricity

One of the greatest dangers around fuel trucks is static electricity. An electrical charge can build up from the flow of fuel through hoses and pumps, and into and out of metal tanks. If the charge becomes too great, it can spark. And that spark might set off a fire or an explosion. That's why you need to bond and ground your vehicle before handling fuel.

Bonding is when you electrically connect two objects to make the static charges on them equal. For example, before you fuel or defuel a vehicle from a HEMTT tanker, connect one of the HEMTT's static cables to the vehicle being fueled.

Grounding is when you electrically connect a single vehicle or two bonded vehicles to a ground rod. In this case, you'd connect one of the HEMTT's static cables to the rod.



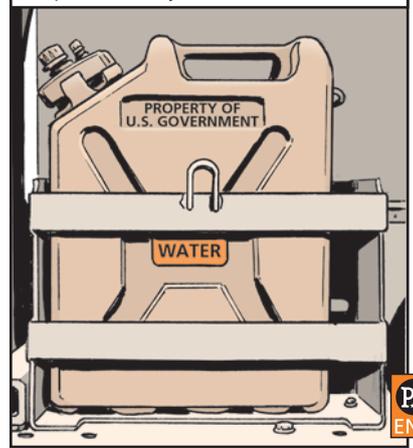
Fuel handlers should inspect the static cables and connections daily. Same goes for the ground rod.

Static electricity can also build up on you and your clothes, especially if they're nylon or wool. Taking off charged clothes or tugging at them could unleash a spark. If the clothes are wet with fuel, they could burst into flames. (Nylon clothes have another drawback: If they catch fire, they melt.)

Keep a 5-gal water can on your truck. You'll need it if fuel splashes on you. Use water to rinse fuel off your clothes before you strip down. Also use it to flush your eyes and skin as needed.

Next month, PS 708 will present the second and final part in this series about safe fuel handling. Part II will discuss night fueling, placards, smoking, sources of ignition, fire extinguishers and education.

Keep water handy to rinse fuel from clothes



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