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- ◇ Correct Personal Protective Equipment (e.g. safety shoes, gloves).
- ◇ Trained First Aider
- ◇ Trained Fire Fighter



Examples of signage to be used in filling stations

### How to react to fire in a fuel filling station

1. **Get away from the vehicle.** If the fire starts from the fuel going into your car, **do not** pull out the pump. All you will succeed in doing is to spread the flaming fuel all over the ground. Just get away from the car.

2. **Call for help.** Yell to anyone nearby and ask them to tell the staff and [call the fire brigade](#)

3. **Find the emergency shutdown button.** This will stop all fuel from flowing through any pumps at the station, and will reduce the damage if the fire spreads any further.



4. **Don't use water.** Don't attempt to be a hero and pour water on the fire, for two reasons. Petrol floats on water, and you should never go near any fire that occurs at fuel filling station.



5. **Extinguish the fire.** Judge whether the situation is safe enough for you to help extinguish the fire. All fuel filling stations are required to have at least two fire extinguishers. Learn how to [use a Fire Extinguisher](#) or use sand to help extinguish the fire.



6. **Help evacuate the fuel filling station.** Make sure that everyone has evacuated the filling station and is in a safe place away from the fire.

7. **Wait for the fire brigade to arrive.**

For more information call  
Tel: 24041231  
Or visit: Ministry of Natural Resources & Energy,  
Energy Department, 3rd Floor Income Tax Building,  
Mhlambanyatsi Road.



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY

## Handling Petrol and Diesel

Petrol is a highly flammable liquid and must be stored, transported and handled with extreme care. The risk of injury, environmental damage, fire or explosion can be significantly reduced by becoming aware of the dangers associated with petrol.



### Dangers associated with petrol

#### *Health risks*

- ◇ Avoid contact with your skin as this may cause irritation. Wash any affected area immediately with soap and water.
- ◇ Avoid inhalation of petrol vapor as this can cause dizziness and headaches and may lead to respiratory problems.
- ◇ Avoid contact with your eyes as petrol can cause serious damage. Immediately irrigate with water and seek medical assistance.
- ◇ If swallowed, do not induce vomiting, seek medical assistance at once.
- ◇ Always make sure that you have the correct protective clothing (e.g. Footwear, gloves) when working in a place that specializes with petrol.
- ◇ Contaminated clothing should be removed immediately and disposed of safely.
- ◇ It is important to refer to appropriate first aid measures prior to handling any dangerous substances.

#### *Fire hazard*

Petrol is a highly flammable liquid which can give off flammable vapor, even at very low temperatures. This means there is always a risk of fire or explosion if a source of ignition is present;

#### Safety precautions to avoid fire

- ◇ Turn off your vehicle's engine when refueling.
- ◇ No naked flames therefore do not smoke light matches or use lighters while refueling
- ◇ Pay attention to what you're doing. Pumping gas is the transfer of a hazardous substance; don't engage in other activities.
- ◇ Mobile phones must be switched off in filling stations when refueling.
- ◇ To avoid spills, do not top off or overfill your vehicle.



#### Treatment of small leaks or spills

- ◇ ensure it is safe to approach the area and there is no source of ignition present
- ◇ control the spill or leak by identifying the source and treating appropriately, e.g. secure the lid on an overturned container or drum
- ◇ prevent the spread of the spill by using a suitable absorbent material, e.g. sand/earth or commercial spill kits and apply directly to the petrol and / or use as a barrier
- ◇ small spills (less than 100ml) may be left to evaporate naturally if safe to do so, i.e. the petrol / petrol vapor is not likely to enter drains or manholes, is away from sources of ignition and is away from other people who may be affected by it
- ◇ dispose of used absorbent material safely. Contaminated material may be placed in to a suitable container for safe disposal e.g. plastic container or heavy plastic bag securely sealed. Take the same precautions .

