

The Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI) is working on a campaign to make people aware of fires resulting from “static” (that is static electricity) at gas pumps. Although static electricity-related refueling fires are rare, these incidents have caused a few injuries and some property damage.

The PEI suggests consumers can avoid static electricity problems at the gas pump by staying outside the vehicle while refueling. Staying outside the vehicle will greatly reduce the likelihood of any build-up of static electricity that could be discharged at the nozzle.

Motorists who cannot avoid getting back into the vehicle should always first touch a metal part of the vehicle with a bare hand, such as the door, or some other metal surface, before pulling the nozzle out. This allows the static from your body to be discharged before removing the nozzle.

For more information on avoiding potential problems with static electricity build-up at the pump and refueling, visit the Petroleum Equipment Institute at <http://www.pei.org/static>.