Vehicle fires sometimes occur while people are filling metal gas cans placed on plastic surfaces. This type of fire usually involves a gas can in the back of a pick-up truck with a plastic bed liner.

Gasoline tends to carry a static electric charge. When pouring gasoline into a can, this charge can build up on the can. If the can is sitting on concrete or the ground, the static charge can safely flow away. But when the can is sitting on plastic, such as the plastic bed liner in a truck, the static charge cannot escape because the plastic is an insulator, that is, it does not conduct electricity. A spark can occur between the can and the fuel nozzle and ignite the gasoline.

When the spark occurs in the flammable vapor space near the open mouth of the gas can, a fire occurs.

Use only gas cans approved by OSHA and follow these precautions:

• Use only an approved container.
• Don't fill any container while it's inside a vehicle.
• Always place the container you're filling on the ground and away from other customers and traffic.
• Keep the nozzle in contact with the can while you're filling it.
• Never use a latch-open device to fill a portable container.
• Don't smoke.
• While transporting containers, tie them in place.

For More Information

For more information about tractor safety, visit the Florida AgSafe Network Web site:

http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu

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The following publications are available at your county Extension office and at the EDIS Web site, <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>. (IFAS Publication Numbers are in parentheses after the titles. The second set of parentheses contains the Web address at which the publication can be viewed.)

- **Getting Started on the Right Foot: Dangers of Bypass Starting** (AE299) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE172.)

- **When Two's a Crowd: Dangers of Extra Riders on Tractors** (AE300) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE173)

- **Filling Gas Cans Safely** (AE301) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE174.)

- **Lighting and Marking Farm Equipment for Road Travel -- Summary of ASAE Standard S279.10** (AE302) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE175.)

- **Road Safety for Tractors and Farm Machinery** (AE303) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE176.)

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS)** (AE304) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE177.)

- **Avoid The Invisible Hazard: Know About Soil Shear Lines** (AE305) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE178.)

- **Shortcuts are Shortsighted! or Invest Seconds, Save Lives** (AE306) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE179.)

- **Ready or Not? Get Ready with a Tractor Operator Checklist** (AE307) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE180.)

- **Yee-Haa! Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo** (AE308) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE181.)

- **Hand-me-down Hazards: Dangers of Used Equipment** (AE309) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE182.)

- **Safety Tips for Tractor Loading and Towing** (AE310) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE183.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Agricultural Employers** (Circular 1249) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE195.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Privately Owned and Operated Farms and Ranches** (Circular 1250) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE196.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Acreages and Homeowners** (Circular 1251) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE197.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Landscape Maintenance and Horticultural Industries** (Circular 1252) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE198.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Emergency and Rescue Personnel** (Circular 1253) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE199.)

- **Safer Tractor Operations for Farm Workers and Employees** (Circular 1254) (View this publication at: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE200.)