

Safety Column



Mike Peeler
New Jersey State Weights and Measures

As spring arrives, many of us know that it's time for RMFD inspections, which stand for Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers. These inspections can be quite a chore, especially if you have several stations or devices to check. It can feel tedious and sometimes even a bit dull. However, it's important not to let your guard down and forget about safety concerns during this busy time. Safety should always come first, this includes checking that all equipment is working properly, ensuring there are no leaks, and confirming that emergency shut-off systems are easily accessible. Additionally, inspecting the area for any trip hazards or other safety issues is vital. Reviewing these areas can help prevent accidents and ensure a smooth inspection process. Let's make sure we take the necessary steps to keep everything safe and in good working order this spring.

Clothing:

- Cotton clothing is your best choice. Why, synthetic clothing, besides being a possible source for giving off a static charge, also in case of a fire, melts at high temps.
- Shoes or boots that have a rubber sole are great for providing traction. Also look for steel toed boots that are chemical and oil resistant for more protection.
- Don't forget about eye protection, gloves, and a hard hat depending on where you are working.

Equipment:

- First and foremost, a fire extinguisher, properly rated for this inspection is a must. (Class B extinguishers are for flammable liquids and gasses.)
- First aid kit, making sure it has eye wash available.
- Safety Vest, a Fuel Spill Kit consisting of stay dry (kitty litter is also good to keep on hand in case of emergencies) absorbent pads and socks, proper disposal bags.

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- An Emergency Response Guidebook is always a good item to have available.
- Safety cones, warning signs, and even warning lights on your vehicle, all items to help block off and control traffic.

Other considerations:

- Check for tripping, slipping, overhead, or spill hazards, especially if you are using a 5-gallon test measure and walking it to the UST to return the product.
- No smoking should be a given, and also any other possible sources of ignition.
- Remember proper lifting when moving your test measure, and make sure to avoid prolong exposure to the inhalation of gas vapors.
- Make sure to open both sides of the dispenser that you are testing. Besides checking for loose wires, broken parts, and leaks, this also helps with the dissipation of vapors.
- Avoid “switch loading” which is the loading of a low vapor product such as diesel fuel, or kerosene into a test measure that contains a higher vapor product such as gasoline. It is recommended to test diesel fuel first, then gasoline, but having a test measure for two different products is always a better idea.
- Make sure you are grounded. Use a metal funnel and test measure.

Taking a few extra minutes to make sure you are doing your inspection safely and correctly can really make a big difference in your life. Accidents can happen quickly and being careful can save you and others from serious injury. When you take the time to do things properly, you help prevent accidents and keep yourself and others safe.

