

Bulletin 20 August 2020

## Fuel Geysers.

This safety bulletin is provided for all our members. The sawyer program has been made aware and conducted informational training of its sawyer members.

This bulletin is provided to us amateurs who seasonally get the saw out and make firewood and who do not get the benefit of the sawyer program training.

When handling gasoline in a seemingly benign condition it can erupt from its container when the cap is removed.

This problem is most prevalent in some chain saws with non-vented fuel tanks but can happen with any sealed gas container.

Gasoline will boil at 95 degrees Fahrenheit at sea pressure, and boil at a much lower temperature when at altitude.

The forest service has lost many firefighters due to the fuel geysers that emit from the chain saw gas tanks when the cap is removed. The hot fuel boils out dousing the operator. If the person is lucky it does not ignite.

A chain saw can get quite hot with steady operation. If the saw is secured, and has a non-vented fuel tank the chance that the fuel within is above the boiling point is great. This can happen as well with storage containers left in the sun or back of a vehicle in the sun as well.

Allow the saw to cool for a while before attempting refueling. When removing any fuel container cap, do it slowly and use a rag or other shield to protect the operator from the possible eruption.

The topic is not new and much information can be found on the internet by searching on chainsaw Fuel geysers.

Check out these sites for more information about particular incidents.

[Fuel Geyser Grizzly Peak](#)

[Pine Hollow Fuel Geyser](#)

Be safe,

Your Safety Committee