



Requirements for Unattended Fueling and Signage

Requirements for Unattended Fueling Operations

Unattended fueling is allowed in Maine and must follow the requirements from the Department of Environmental Protection, Rules for Underground Oil Storage Facilities, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 691, and the Office of State Fire Marshal, Rules and Regulations For Flammable And Combustible Liquids, 16-219 C.M.R. ch.34 including NFPA 30-A Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages 2008 Edition and NFPA 30 Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code 2008 Edition. The following requirements must be met if a facility provides unattended fueling. (Please note the information provided below has been paraphrased, is not to be used as the basis of any legal action and should be verified with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Office of State Fire Marshal.)

1. The facility must be equipped with the following:

- An emergency stop (commonly referred to as the “Big Red Button”) available to the customer, which shuts off all power to the dispenser and to pumps that supply that dispenser, located no less than 20 feet and no more than 100 feet from the dispenser.
- An emergency shutoff located at each dispenser island.
- A manual release for the fire suppression system available to the customer located no less than 20 feet and no more than 100 feet from the dispenser.
- A fixed automatic fire suppression system meeting the requirements of 16-219 C.M.R. ch. 34 and UL 1254, Standard for Pre-Engineered Dry and Wet Chemical Extinguishing System Units.
- Flame and heat sensing devices required by NFPA 30-A.
- A means available to the customer to immediately notify the local fire department of a fuel spill.

2. The primary fire department having jurisdiction in the area in which a proposed self-service station is to be located shall be informed of such proposal and the requirements of all local ordinances must be met.

3. The Office of the State Fire Marshal must be notified in writing of the type and address of the facility before it is constructed, reconstructed or converted to unattended self-service gasoline dispensing.

4. The facility must have appropriate signage that instructs the public on proper fueling procedures and what to do if a fire or spill occurs. See signage requirements on page 2 of this document.

When the facility is not meeting the requirements outlined above or the owner or operator decides to not allow unattended fueling, they must determine what power sources to turn off to ensure that fuel cannot be dispensed when the facility is closed, or when no employees are supervising fuel dispensing operations. A Maine Certified Tank Installer or Inspector (CTI) can assist you with this.

NOTE: When power to the point of sale console is turned off, the dispensers remain energized and may have the ability to dispense fuel.



Signage Requirements for Unattended Fueling Operations

Motor fuel dispensing facilities subject to the Department's *Operator Training for Underground Oil and Hazardous Substance Storage Facilities*, 06-096 C.M.R., ch.. 693, (last amended September 26, 2018) must meet the following signage requirements if the customers or vehicle operators dispense motor fuels when no certified Class A/B/C Operator is present.

NOTE: The signage requirements in this fact sheet incorporate the applicable requirements of the Office of State Fire Marshal under 16-219 C.M.R. ch. 34 (last amended March 17, 2009) including those requirements adopted by reference from the National Fire Protection Association *Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing facilities and Repair Garages*, NFPA 30-A (2015).

All signs must be conspicuously posted in the dispenser area within sight of the customer being served. Signs should be of an easy to read font style, size, and color on a contrasting background.

1. A sign or multiple signs incorporating the following or equivalent wording:

WARNING

- Shut off engine.
- No smoking.
- It is unlawful and dangerous to dispense gasoline into unapproved containers.
- No filling of portable containers in or on a motor vehicle.
- Place container on ground before filling.
- Discharge your static electricity before fueling by touching a metal surface away from the nozzle.
- Do not re-enter your vehicle while gasoline is pumping.
- Remain in view of the fueling nozzle during dispensing.
- If a fire starts, **do not** remove nozzle — leave area immediately.
- Do not allow individuals under licensed age to use the pump.

2. Signage that outlines operating instructions and includes the location of emergency controls.

3. A sign incorporating the following or equivalently worded emergency instructions:

Emergency Instructions

In case of a fire, spill or other emergency:

- Use emergency stop button.
- Report accident by calling the local fire department (*specify local fire number*) and certified operator (*specify number for certified operator*), and
- Report location (*specify street address of facility*).

For more information please contact the Department of Environmental Protection at 207-287-7688 and ask for someone in the Underground Tanks Unit or contact the Office of State Fire Marshal at 207-626-3880.