

Safety Alert

Generator Fire OIF SA-015



On 21 June 2008 a MND-B Soldier was severely burned, over 55 percent of his body, while refueling a generator. He is listed in Very Serious Condition and has been evacuated to Germany for life saving treatment. The exact cause of this accident is under investigation; however, we do know that they were refueling with 5-gallon fuel cans and that the generator was running.

CONTROL MEASURES – TAKE PRECAUTIONS AND DON'T GET BURNED!

- 5-gallon fuel nozzles/spouts must have the spark arresting screen installed. They prevent flash back fires.
- JP8 has a flash point of 100 degrees – at this temperature the fuel is vaporizing enough that a spark or hot item can ignite the vapors causing a flash fire.
- Never refuel a running or hot generator, we have had Soldiers Killed in MND-B and around Iraq due to this one mistake.
- Smoking is always prohibited within 50 feet (no smoking signs must be posted).
- Personnel refueling will wear protective gloves, chemical splash goggles, and full uniform.
- At least one Soldier should man a portable fire extinguisher.
- Check to ensure that you have the correct type of fuel.
- Ensure that spare fuel is stored at least 50 feet away and that there is a fire point near the generator and fuel storage point.
- Generator must be grounded at all times.
- Plenty of clean water should be available to flush fuel out of the eyes and off the skin.
- If generators cannot be shut down, external fuel tanks will be installed and grounded away from the generator.

TANKER REFUELING:

- Always ground and bond vehicles to permit safe discharge of static electricity.
- Ensure that the engine is always turned and the master switch is set to the off position.
- Refueling operators need to be familiar with emergency shut-off procedures.
- Place and use drip pans and spill kits properly.

See FM 10-67-1 and Equipment TMs for fueling procedures and safety precautions.

Refueling operations should not be taken lightly
and all hazards must be mitigated.

