



## **7 Safety Tips to Prevent a Mishap at a Fuel Station**

In visiting a petrol station for refuelling your vehicle is a regular activity that is often not a very pleasant job for many, especially if one requires doing it during peak office hours. Nevertheless, it is an unavoidable task and needs to be done as and when required. You might, however, ignore the safety measures that you must take while visiting a fuel station, particularly if you are in a huge rush. In such cases, people don't usually think about the possible consequences while getting their cars refuelled. But nothing is dearer than your life!

You might think about what might possibly go wrong, especially if you have the habit of visiting the same petrol station every time you refuel your vehicle. But the fact is, accidents do occur and one won't be able to anticipate the chances of one. There might be numerous potentials of fire and one needs to take all possible precautions to avoid it. Apart from taking preventive measures, however, one also needs to keep oneself at a relatively safer place while traveling in and around a petrol pump.

Being alert is the most important safety tip that a person must keep in mind while refueling his vehicle at a petrol pump. All car owners must be aware of the following safety measures while being in and around a petrol pump:

### **Turn Off the Engine**

First and foremost, you must never forget to turn off the engine of your car while getting it refueled. It is not only unsafe to refill your car with your engine turned on, but it is also regarded as illegal. Also, make sure to keep the keys of your vehicle away from the point of igniting or starting the engine while refueling the tank. This is done to ensure that someone doesn't accidentally turn the keys, thereby ending up starting the engine while you are still in the process of getting your car refueled.

### **Avoid Smoking or Lighting a Match or Lighter**

Avoid getting involved in activities like lighting a matchstick or a lighter or smoking a cigarette in and around a petrol fuelling station. Petrol is highly combustible and if it comes in contact with even the slightest spark, it might result in a dangerous fire accident or a blast. Also, you must put out any lighted cigarettes or other ignitable items before entering a petrol pump zone. Try to eliminate or unload all combustible and inflammable substances from your car before you visit a fuelling station. In short, don't do anything that might start a fire.

### **Avoid Using Your Phone**

You must be aware that mobile phones emit highly toxic radiations which on coming to contact with petrol, might arise a fire. On top of that, if your phone is heated up, for

example, due to overuse or while going out on a sunny day, it might pose a great threat of a possible explosion. So make sure that you always remember to switch off your mobile phones before entering a petrol pump.

### **Keep Children Safe**

Children are quite fickle-minded and are overjoyed by every little object they see. While this habit is quite natural, it might even turn out to be dangerous. Kids generally have the habit of playing with every item they see, and it might be a pump nozzle. According to Indian laws, only those individuals aged sixteen years or above are allowed to refuel a vehicle. Moreover, younger children are quite unpredictable and might distract you into petty things while getting your car refuelled. This might result in disasters that you could have easily prevented. Therefore, it is recommended that you keep young children away from the petrol pump station. Keep a watchful eye on them and instruct them to remain at a safe place until you are over with your refuelling work.

### **Discharge Static Electricity**

Static electricity can ignite petrol vapour if it comes in contact with it. Static electricity is generated when there is friction produced due to activities like sliding across the car seat while getting down for refuelling your vehicle's engine. So be sure to discharge all possibilities of static electricity generation before you refill the tank. An easy way to discharge static electricity by touching metal to the objects that are open to such a risk.

### **Be Careful While Handling Petrol**

There are people who have the habit of keeping an extra reserve of fuel to be used in cases of emergency. It is strictly recommended that you must not do so, as in most of the cases you would not be keeping it safe. Avoid storing any extra fuel containers with you, especially inside your car. If however, you need to have extra storage of fuel for future use, do follow certain precautions such as keeping the container in a well-ventilated area, out of reach of young children. Do use a properly sealed container made of metal or plastic that is approved and labelled by an authoritative body, so as to prevent leakage. Also, refrain from disposing of unwanted petrol in any open surface like a drain, a park or a water body. If you are not aware of the safe disposal methods, do talk to a staff at a local petrol station.

### **Beware of Theft**

Be aware of all your belongings before entering a petroleum pump, especially your valuable items and documents like credit/debit cards, cash, identity proofs, jewellery, or even your vehicle. You might have the habit of leaving your car with its windows rolled down while getting it refuelled. Even a few minutes of leaving your car attended might land you in a number of troubles like theft or losing your belongings. Make sure to put up all your windows and keep your vehicle locked.

With these preventive measures, you can prevent any occurrences of a disaster. You can save lives and prevent any damages caused to property. Abide by all traffic rules and be a responsible citizen. Nobody can predict what's waiting for you at the turn of the next lane.

PS: Always keep car insurance handy to avoid the risks related to finance and expense that a car owner has to bear when an accident occurs.

- *Moradabad Police, 2022*