



# CARDLOCK NEWS & PROGRAM UPDATES

July 2009

## **New Rules for Oregon Gas Stations**

As stated in a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) news release, effective July 1, 2009, Oregon gas station attendants can no longer overfill gas tanks because of new DEQ regulations. The ban on topping off is designed to reduce benzene and other toxic air pollutants from Oregon gas stations and other gasoline storage and dispensing facilities.

Topping off is when a gas station attendant continues to fill a gasoline tank after the nozzle clicks off.

Despite popular belief among some drivers, topping off the tank does not equal more gas in the tank. Topping off during fueling can cause gasoline to spill and release benzene, a known carcinogen, and other toxic air pollutants into the air. This is a health concern for gas station workers and drivers. In addition, most modern pumps simply return the fuel back into the pump after the overflow click which means drivers are paying for gas that does not get into the fuel tank.

In some cases, overfilling a gas tank can cause a vehicle's vapor control system to clog and stop working, which can require costly repairs.

The Environmental Quality Commission, DEQ's rulemaking and policy advisory board, approved and adopted the no topping off regulations in December 2008.

The new rules also require all larger Oregon gasoline storage and distribution facilities which dispense an average of 40,000 gallons per month or more to use vapor capture controls similar to those currently required in the Portland, Medford and Salem areas.

DEQ's regulations follow on the heels of an Environmental Protection Agency rulemaking last year that tightened air quality regulations for fuel dispensing facilities nationwide. Oregon's tougher standards go beyond the federal rules to reduce benzene by an estimated 28 tons per year and volatile organic compounds by an estimated 1,610 tons per year.

DEQ advises "No Topping Off" signs must be posted at any facility with a gasoline tank holding 250 gallons or more. You can download their sign, or make your own.

For more information about Oregon's new top off ban and efforts to reduce toxic air pollution from gasoline vapors visit:

[www.deq.state.or.us/eq/permit/vapor/vapor.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/eq/permit/vapor/vapor.htm)  
or [www.HealthyAirOregon.org](http://www.HealthyAirOregon.org)

## **Retirement of Jo Noffsinger OSFM Cardlock Compliance Specialist**

After many years of dedicated service to the State of Oregon and the Office of State Fire Marshal, Jo Noffsinger retired July 1, 2009. Jo was instrumental in streamlining many areas in the Cardlock unit, and her enthusiasm and cooperative, helpful nature will be greatly missed. Any cardlock questions can be directed to Art Spond at (503) 934-8287.



## **SB 88A**

Senate Bill 88A, which was a proposed change to statute to increase cardlock funding and reduce the purchase requirement from 900 gallons to 500 gallons, did not pass.

Therefore, license and customer fees will remain the same, and operators must continue to monitor customers to ensure they purchase 900 gallons each year.

The OSFM may bring this funding proposal forward again in the legislative special session scheduled for February 2010.

## **Cardlock Direct Phone Lines**

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