

NOC NEWS

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

ALL AMERICAN CLUB
1985, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992

A member of the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Meetings

Day and Location:

With the exception of July, August and December, meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra.

The La Habra Community Center is located west of Euclid on La Habra Blvd.

For current meeting information, please call (909) 598-2456

North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
Box 653
La Habra, CA 90633-0653



<http://home.inreach.com/o-nocgms>
<http://www.cfmsinc.org>

DATED MATERIAL - DO NOT DELAY
October 2003

NORTH ORANGE COUNTY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 653
La Habra, California

Regular meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (excluding July, August and December) at the La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd., La Habra (west of Euclid).

2003 OFFICERS

President	Don Warthen	(626) 330-8974
First Vice President	Open	
Second Vice President	Jane Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Secretary	Susan Hansen	(562) 865-2040
Treasurer	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Federation Director	Loretta Ogden	(909) 598-2456
Director	Virginia Grafton	(562) 865-2040
Director	Floyd Allen	(714) 777-5159
Director	Izzie Burns	(626) 288-2896
Director	Ofelia Warthen	(626) 330-8974
Director	Bill Burns	(626) 288-2896

2003 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Operating Supplies	Virginia Grafton	see above
Budget & Finance	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Bulletin Editors	Don & Loretta Ogden	see above
Displays & Education	Virginia Grafton	(562) 865-2040
Door Prizes	Verle Stadel	(562) 696-1677
Field Trips	Bill & Izzie Burns	see above
Historian	Susan Hansen	see above
Membership	Jane Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Insurance	Don Livezey	(714) 524-6280
Librarian	Pat Felix	(714) 970-1496
Operating Regulations & By-Laws	Don Warthen	see above
Programs	Ofelia Warthen	see above
Publicity	Jane Hendrixon	(562) 691-9595
Refreshments	Nancy Bird	(562) 947-6896
Show Chairmen 2003	Bill Burns	see above
Assistant Show Chairman	The entire club	

The objective and purpose of the North Orange County Gem and Mineral Society is to disseminate knowledge of mineralogy and the earth sciences and to encourage study in these subjects through means of: the presentation of public exhibitions, lectures, slide programs; field trips for explorations, study and collection of specimens; the preparation, publication and distribution of articles and studies pertaining to mineralogy and the earth sciences; the promotion of scientific research in these fields; the encouragement of interest among young people and the fostering of classes in mineralogy and lapidary arts; and all other means which are appropriate to the accomplishment of the primary objectives set forth.

Annual Membership Dues: Individual, \$10; Family, \$15; Juniors, \$3.
Visitors are always welcome at our regular meetings and field trips.
The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Soc. does not yet have a Junior Division.
Material contained in this newsletter may be used if credit is given.

Please send exchange bulletins to:

Don & Loretta Ogden, Co-Editors
 NOC Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.
 20904 Trigger Ln.
 Diamond Bar, CA 91765
 909-598-2456
 donogden@aol.com
<http://www.cfmsinc.org>

NOC GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY NEWS

Vol, 22 No. 6

October 2003

President's Message

by Don Warthen

First I want to apologize for the typographical error in the last newsletter. I have received several calls asking if the meeting had been moved or if we were having a special meeting and of course the answer is no. We had the regular meeting on the 9th.

We had a great time at Camp Paradise this year and a reminder that the sign up sheets for Zzyzx are out and will probably be sold out by next month, so anyone wanting to go should get their applications in right away. You can get forms off the website or you can call Loretta or me.

We will be teaching the kids at Hacienda Heights again next year on January 10, 2004, that's the second Saturday in January. We will need some volunteers and some blanks made up.

The nominating committee is working on putting a slate of officers together for 2004. If you are interested in running please call Ofelia. They will be meeting on October 3rd.

Remember the November meeting will be on the third Tuesday (November 18th). This meeting will be an auction; we will need some items for the auction.

See you at the next meeting scheduled for October 14th at 7:30 pm.

Refreshments

by Nancy Bird

Jerry and Jinney Grafton will bring the goodies for the October meeting. Thanks to Nancy Bird for bringing the goodies to the September meeting.

NOC Club Activities

Cab Classes at Walt Messemer's — 7-10 p.m.
every Wednesday Evening.

Board Meeting — To be announced

Field Trip — To be announced

Deadline for NOC News — October 17.

Programs

by Jay Valley

The program for October will be on the Mexican Cave. It will be given by Will Heltsley of the California Institute of Technology.

October Meeting

Date: October 14

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: La Habra Community Center
101 W. La Habra Blvd.

Members in the News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and have a wonderful day all of you who were born in October.

Susan Hansen - October 11

Ofelia Warthen - October 28

Your gemstone is Opal or Tourmaline.
Your flower is Calendula or Cosmos

Shows and Events

October 11-12, 2003, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Soc.
Sigem Show Building
13337 Main St.
Hours: Sat 8-5 Sun 8-4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356

October 11-12, 2003, Whittier, CA

Whittier
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washing Ave
Hours: 10-5 both days
Jay Valle (626) 934-9764 / jvalle@agmd.gov

November 15-16, 2003, Palmdale, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Club
Palmdale Elks Lodge
2705 E. Ave. Q
Hours: 9-5 both days
Gail Becker (661) 256-4689
Email: Gail1010becker@aol.com

November 22-23, 2003, Victorville, CA

Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 7th Street
Hours: Sat 9-5 Sun 9-4
Bob Harper (760) 947-6383

November 29-30, 2003, Barstow, CA

Mojave Gem & Mineral Soc.
Barstow Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10-5 both days
Bob Depue (760) 255-1030

via CFMS Web Site

CFMS Fall Business Meeting & Election of 2004 Officers

via CFMS Newsletter, september 2003

Where: Quality Inn, Fresno, CA
(559) 257-2727

When: Saturday, November 8, 2003
Starting at 9:00 a.m.
(Directors bring your copy of the
Agenda mailed to you.) Any CFMS
member may attend but only Directors
may vote.

Cracker Barrel:

Friday November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Banquet & Installation of 2003 Officers:

Saturday, November 8, 2003
6:00 p.m. no-host bar & get together
7:00 p.m. Dinner

Menu : Brooks Ranch Green Salad
Prime Rib or Chicken Marsala
Vegetable Medley
Garlic Potatoes
Bread and Butter
Cheese Cake
Coffee & Tea

Cost: \$22.50 per person (includes tax & tip)
Mail your check by Nov. 1 to:
CFMS
P.O. Box 1657
Rialto, CA 92377-1657

Please indicate choice of entree on
reservation.

Make check payable to CFMS.

Free Grinding wheels

Floyd Allen has 6 or 8 used grinding wheels that
he will give to any member that wants them. Several
are almost new and he hates to throw them away.
Please contact Floyd if you are interested.

Floyd Allen (714) 777-5159

Field Trip

by Bob Fitzpatrick
CFMS Field Trip Chair - South - 2003

October 17 - 19, 2003 Field Trip to Northeast side of the Cady Mountains (Afton Canyon area)

MATERIAL TO COLLECT - Red and yellow agate, jasper, (plume & sagenite) opalite, calcite rhombs, chalcedony roses, amygdules, green fluorite, onyx and much more.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE - Early Friday will be for setting up camp. Friday around 1 p.m. I will be leading a field trip. Each day around 8 a.m., we will be going to a different area to collect. There will be a potluck Saturday around 5 p.m.

DIRECTIONS TO CAMP SITE - I-15 Freeway east past Barstow for about 45 miles to Basin Road. Exit off ramp to the right and follow signs to camp site area. The road to the camping site should be okay for 2 wheel drive cars, trailers & motor homes. We will be camping just on the other side of railroad tracks.

VEHICLE - 4 wheel drive from camp to collecting areas. The desert road is sandy and in some areas has large rocks in it.

CAMP & FACILITIES - This will be dry camping, no water, no picnic tables, no toilets, no firewood to be gathered and no fees.

TOOLS - Collecting bags, rock hammer, eye gear, flashlights, spray water bottle, etc., camp chair (to sit in at night around the fire).

SAFETY CONCERNS - Do not lick the rocks, use sun screen, stay away from rattlesnakes, use bug spray, be aware of flash floods, be extra careful and don't get lost.

CLIMATE & WEATHER - It can be hot during the day and cold at night, it could rain.

CLOTHING - Appropriate for this time of the year.

OTHER REMARKS - All club members and there guests are welcome to join us. Come for the day or camp out with us. Bring food, lots of water, a camera and lots of firewood for the campfire at night. If you need a motel or supplies they are available in Baker or Barstow. Don't forget we will have a potluck on Saturday night, so bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Each night after dark we will have a campfire where we can all join together and have a good time roasting marshmallows, telling jokes or just talking about the good OLE times.

I should be arriving at campsite around 11 a.m. on Friday. Saturday and Sunday we will be leaving the camp at around 8 a.m. and drive to the collecting areas.

You must observe the AFMS code of ethics and sign a consent and assumption of risk waiver of liability form. Hope to see you there.

For additional information E-mail me at RUROCKY2@aol.com or call me at (909) 845-3051.

Nominate Your Officers for 2004

by the Nominating Committee

Ofelia Warthen -Chair

Loretta Ogden

Nancy Bird

Virginia Grafton

Pat Felix

The Nomination Committee officer nominations for 2004 are:

1st VP - Isabella Burns

Director - Nancy Bird

Director - Bill Burns

Director - Angie Harwood

There will be nominations from the floor at the October business meeting.

Voting shall be by secret ballot at the November business meeting.

Talc - The Mineral That Won the War

*from The Rollin Rock Aug 2002
via Vet's Rock Talk*

If your only contact with talc is the powder that comes from cans the above statement may seem absurd, but it is not far from the truth. Ben M. Page in California Division of Mines Special Report 8 "Talc Deposits of Steatite Grade, Inyo County California" states Steatite is exceptionally pure talc suited for the manufacture of high-frequency radio insulators and for other exacting uses. It was a critical mineral during World War II. At the beginning of the war there was a single major domestic source, the Talc City mine, Inyo County California. During WW II the government decreed that all the steatite was to be used in high-frequency radios. There are two definitions of steatite, the mineralogical definition of massive talc and the commercial one. The commercial definition of steatite is that it is talc having less than 1.5% lime, 1.5% Ferric oxide, and 4% alumina as impurities. It was used in two forms. Blocks of "Lava" talc were machined into the desired shape and then fired to make ceramic insulators. The second and more common method was to grind the talc and mix it with a binder. This mixture was then molded into the desired shape and fired.

During and after WW II the Southern Inyo Mountains were extensively prospected and 18 talc mines were put into operation. All have since closed, and most have been abandoned. The most extensive deposits were at the Talc City Hills located north of Darwin. The talc is a dark gray, and it makes for a uninteresting specimens at best, But if you do not have any in your collection you do not have the mineral that won the war. If you still wonder why I call it that, the most important high-frequency radio it was used in was called RADAR!

Talc - Tips

*from the Luzenac Group,
which produces talc
via Vet's rock Talk*

In icy weather, rub talc on your automobile door seals to prevent the doors from frosting up

If you have problems with rabbits getting into your garden, spread a band of scented talcum powder around the garden border to keep them out. Rabbits don't like the smell and will not cross the powder. It really works.

Grease on upholstered furniture can be removed by sprinkling talcum powder over the mark. Let stand for 15 minutes or until grease is absorbed. Brush off the powder. Repeat if necessary.

For squeaky clean crystal glasses, wash them in a mixture of water and talc and dry with a tea towel

If your car engine is leaking oil and you can't find the source, try dusting the clean engine surfaces with talcum powder. The powder will absorb the oil and you'll be able to follow the oil's trail in the talc.

Stop floor boards from squeaking by sprinkling liberal amounts of talcum powder over the area and cover with a cloth. Walk over the area repeatedly to work the powder into the cracks. Add more powder and repeat. This should silence the squeak.

Talcum powder can help frustrated golfers to practice indoors during the winter months! Dip the golf ball in talcum powder and position the ball so that the club at impact hits the back of the powdered ball. After the putt, examine the club face and you will see the point where you contacted the ball.

If you wet the pages of a book accidentally, sprinkle each page with talc and spread it with a soft cloth. Leave the book under a weight for a few days and then brush off the excess talc. The pages of your book will be like new again.

To keep your scissors from getting sticky when you are cutting a sticky surface, dust the blades with talcum powder before cutting.

Gem-O-Rama 2003 Show

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society

P.O. Box 966 Trona, CA 93592-0966

E-mail to: fairchil@iwvisp.com

Dear Gem & Mineral Club Members;

Again this year, IMC Chemicals Inc. is allowing the collection of rare Searles Lake minerals from its private lands, but only during the **October 11-12 show** of the Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society. This is a once a year opportunity for mineral collectors to participate in field trips to a very large, recently deposited, saline mineral ore body. IMCC does ask that visitors remember that Searles Dry Lake not only has rare minerals, it is also a working mine producing over 1.7 millions tons per year of inorganic chemical products.

FIELD TRIP TIMES - same as last year. During the **9 a.m. Saturday mud** tour you will again be able to collect large barrel Hanksite, both singles and clusters weighing up to 100 pounds, from gooey, black mud. The mud minerals will be dug from the same place as last year so they should be good. These specimens can be washed at the site or bottles of brine are sold at the show. During the **2:30 p.m. Saturday blow hole** tour to Searles Dry Lake, collectors can watch IMCC technicians jet a well to bring tons of specimen grade hanksite, borax, sulfahalite, trona, and cubic halite onto the dry salt surface for visitors to collect. This tour is believed to be the largest mineral collecting tour in the country. The **9 a.m. Sunday brine pool** tour will be to brine pools containing the beautiful, naturally pink, Searles Lake halite. To collect pink halite collectors will need a heavy spud bar (rent at show) or a crowbar and heavy hammer, and they may get your feet wet with salt brine. Geologists, technicians or engineers knowledgeable in Searles Dry Lake guide each tour.

Registration for both morning tours begins 1 1/2 hour before departure, Saturday afternoon registration begins 1 hour before. The Saturday tours require a donation of

\$8 per vehicle, the Sunday tour a \$10 donation. The Saturday tours will be 2 1/2 **hours long**, and provide 2 hours at the site. The Sunday will be 4 1/2 hours long with 4 hours at the site. Good collecting is possible without special equipment, but the best collecting requires sacrificial clothes, sturdy shoes (rubber boots are better), gloves, garden tools, a heavy spud bar and hammer, a pad to kneel on, and bags or trays for your "loot". If desired, all necessary tools can be purchased at the show.

The show will again provide bus tours of the chemical extraction plants of IMC Chemicals Inc. These tours have knowledgeable guides to explain the complex procedures needed to recover products. We will also provide information for self-guided tours of the Trona Pinnacles National Natural Area (site of the movies "Dinosaurs" and "Planet of the Apes" and many TV commercials).

In addition to mineral collecting tours, a free indoor mineral show is open from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturday and 8 am to 4 pm Sunday. This includes: 22 mineral dealers, self-serve sales of Searles Lake minerals, the club's General Store with field trip supplies, demonstrations (arrowhead chipping, wire wrapping, sphere making, and making silver chain), 50 hobby/mineral displays, catered cafeteria with large eating area (lunch 10-4 both days and dinner on Friday 5-8 and Saturday 5-7), free bus tours through IMCC's three large chemical plants, and geode sales (you buy, we cut). Also open will be the expanded Old Guest House Museum, the Trona History House, and the Trona Railway Museum with its historic caboose. The Trona Community Church will serve a pancake breakfast both mornings. And IMC Chemicals and the SLG&MS will allow supervised dry camping (RV and tent) at the Valley Wells Area five miles north of the show. Motel rooms are available at the Pinnacle Inn in Trona and several motels in Ridgecrest just 22 miles west.

If you are on the Internet and wish to get show complete information, you can do so by browsing our web page <http://www.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/>.

NOC General Meeting September 9, 2003

by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm by President Don Warthen. The flag salute was led by Jerry Grafton.

Don Warthen introduced the program by Bonita Chamberlain on the people and gemstones, and mining of gemstones of Afghanistan.

Refreshments were served, and donation drawings were held.

Pat shared some cards from show prize winners. She also has bought Bonita's book on Afghanistan.

Jonas has donated a book on amber.

Treasurer's report was read by Don Warthen. Copies available for review.

Federation Report: Loretta, several members attended the Federation show last summer, new CFMS bulletin has an article on safety.

Field trip report: We had to postpone the day trip, Walt Wright won't be back until late October, will try and plan for November. Ginny had some suggestions about sites visited near Barstow, with Women in Mining group. Possible Thanksgiving trip in planning. Izzie suggested areas where was flooding to see what washed out. Whittier Club show in October, may be trip after.

New members were introduced, Don & Kathy, Hope, Debbie and Ruby.

November meeting will be 3rd Tues. Due to the Holiday, the building will be closed our regular day.

Monterey Park club is having a program Sept 20th Frances Lau on Ruby, Sapphire & Tanzanite, \$8 includes Chinese buffet and dancing after. Izzie has tickets.

Education - Ginny reported on the Day camp programs, Loretta on the pearl seminar. She brought some of the pearl strands she has done since.

The classes at Walt's garage are back to 2 nights per week, Don has the punch cards, \$25 for 12 sessions.

Show: we need a chairperson for next year. A lot of things are in place, need to get started.

Dates are the 3rd weekend in June. We should have a meeting right after the show to go over what worked & what didn't.

We need a nominating committee for new officers to present in October, Vote in November, December will be the Christmas party, where officers are installed.

We need a 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 (?) Directors. The Board selected Loretta for committee, Don W. appointed Ofelia, members selected Nancy, Ginny & Pat. They will arrange to meet, we need their report for the October meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Mexican Cave

by Will Heltsley

Will's talk will cover the formation of, and unique features and life in the Cueva de Villa Luz in Tobasco Mexico. Unlike almost all other caves in the world, sulfuric acid dissolves the limestone to form a cave instead carbonic acid. The origin of the sulfuric acid is heavily debated, and he joined an expedition to the cave to try to produce some research providing the correct answer. He will highlight the special techniques needed to safely explore and conduct experiments in the cave, the layout of the cave and how this relates to the sulfuric acid formation mechanism, the unique speleologic features of the cave, and the unmatched organisms and ecosystems surviving, and even flourishing in the cave's harsh environment.

Will Heltsley is a senior Mechanical Engineering major at the California Institution of Technology. He belongs to the Cave Research Foundation and the National Speleological Society and has been caving since about 6 years old. He joined an 8-person expedition partially funded by the National Geographic Society in August of 2002 lead by geologist Louise Hose, who is now the Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, NM, the most prestigious cave-related job in the country.

NOC General Meeting June 10, 2003

by Susan Hansen

The meeting was called to order by President Don Warthen at 7:30

Our upcoming show is the program/topic for tonight. Izzie has lighted pins for sale, proceeds go to the Lewis and Clark trail project. Al moved that the club buy 2 boxes of the pins for members to wear at the show. The motion was seconded and passed.

Don L & Don O. will pick up supplies and equipment from the warehouse Friday. Nancy B. said her gardener and his son are available to help Friday. They will meet at noon to load and take to the La Habra Community Center and unload and help set up. We close at 4pm Sunday, need help about 4:30 or 5pm to help break down. We need to make sure no one else will be coming in. Maybe keep anyone from emptying cases until everyone is out.

There are 2 entrances to the clubhouse, but only one open to our rooms. Lock the cases, ask the Case people to come back later (5pm) to break down and pick up cases.

Angie will be here from 2pm on to collect Krafty Corner items on Friday. They open to us at 2pm. The City people will set up the tables, then we skirt them. We need four 6' tables for cases and 1 for Angie in the 'Korner'. They have lighter tables for \$44 at Home Depot. Some members may bring some. Discussion on getting additional material if don't have enough skirting.

Pat will set up the donation award area, Community businesses are bringing or sending donations..

We are not planning a Friday dinner this year, bring munchies or finger food, nothing messy please. Jane will bring cups, plates, etc. We will use the round tables in eating area. Discussion of table covers or not. Center will furnish an easel, Ofelia volunteered to do a sign to direct to the show. We can't put anything on the walls, windows or curtains - no tape.

Jane will bring some material for signs. Discussion of a banner type sign, 3 or 4 or 5' long, that we could put on the wrought iron fence at front of building.

The City doesn't want our SunKissed Kid to be freestanding unless someone stays by it. Suggested he be put on the patio fence by the geodes. Nancy volunteered to put signs up at the 'old' location. Discussion of signs on corners, city says can't attach them on trees or poles. Nancy will put one down at Lambert and on Whittier Blvd. Note: Don't forget to take down on Sunday. What do we use for a Kitchen sign?

Hospitality - Jane & Irene

Security - Bill B and Don O to stay Friday night. Need someone for Sat. The building closes at 9pm and will be locked up. Security Sat am Don W, 12-5, Forrest, Sat pm. Sunday 9-12 Nancy; 12-3 Pat; 3-6 Jane L. Members need to circulate-wear security arm-bands. They should be in the warehouse. Need someone Friday 3-9 to walk around and "oversee", Nancy volunteered.

Joanne Abramson will be signing her books in the afternoon. We have 50# of rocks from Clarence Poole. Angie picked some out for the spinning wheel, also shells. We have some bags to sell at the Krafty Korner, take some and fill with "something pretty".

1) we need new case material; 2) memorial case for Walt, Pat, Zeke, Ed.

The main case will be the faceting "cases" of famous stone replicas. 1 or 2 other tables if Walt Wright will bring wood. Loretta has the mementos for the cases.

Members to bring pies and cakes for sale, Loretta would like cookies too. Wants to do different teas for tea-time, flavored coffees. Menu: Chinese chicken salad, a turkey croissant sandwich, ham sandwiches, nachos, hot dogs and chili, coffees and sodas.

Nine dealers. We have 84 geodes to cut, & couple bags of little ones.

Jane L announced that 20 members and 3 guests are present tonight, Hope Gonzalez, Ruby Rios, Debbie Alvarez.

Drawings were held, Debbie got the first prize, Bob C "won" the white elephant.

Treasurer's report is available for review.

Federation Report: Loretta - no increase in insurance premium but is a change in reporting membership. Federation show coming up in Ventura. Some are planning to take Amtrak.

Education: 2 day seminars coming up, by the California Mineral Education Foundation June 26 & 27 at Cal Poly Pomona, then 7-21 & 8-1 in Stockton, for Teachers on Science/Geology.

Beading class will be 7-12, Pearl seminar first by Frances Lau, then and a Chinese Buffet, then beading class. Will have sign up sheets at show.

La Habra Summer Camp- we signed up for 1st week in August, Thurs & Fri-bringing lapidary equipment, cabbng wheels..

Field trips: Day geology bus trip tentatively 6-28, would be \$20. Sand dunes, fossils, marshes, Meet at 8:15 at LII Center, should be back by 4:30. Have sign up sheets at show.

Committee for Christmas party needed - Trini, Loretta, Jane L. volunteered.

BBQ for summer TBA.

We need a Chairperson for programs for next year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28pm.

Safety

by Chuck McKie,
CFMS Safety Chairman

FIRES DURING FUELING OPERATIONS

I've mentioned some of this before. It is such a serious subject that it bears repeating. In the first case, the (cell) phone was placed on the car's trunk lid during fueling; it rang and the ensuing fire destroyed the car and the gasoline pump.

In the second, an individual suffered severe burns to their face when fumes ignited as they answered a call while refueling their car.

And in the third, an individual suffered burns to the thigh and groin as fumes ignited when the phone, which was in their pocket, rang while they were fueling their car.

You should know that mobile phones can ignite fuel or fumes.

√ Mobile phones that light up when switched on or when they ring release enough energy to provide a spark for ignition.

√ Mobile phones should not be used at filling stations, or when fueling lawn mowers, boats, etc.

√ Mobile phones should not be used, or should be turned off around other materials that generate flammable or explosive fumes or dust (i.e. solvents, chemicals, gases, grain dust, etc.)

To sum it up. Hear are the Four Rules for Safe Refueling:

1. Turn off engine.
2. Don't smoke.
3. Don't use your cell phone - leave it inside the vehicle and turn it off.

4. Don't re-enter your vehicle during fueling.

Bob Rankes of Petrolcum Equipment Institute is working on a campaign to try and make people aware of fires as a result of "static electricity" at gas pumps. His company has researched 150 cases of these fires. The results were very surprising:

1. Out of 150 cases, almost all of them were women.
2. Almost all cases involved the person getting back in their vehicle when the nozzle was still pumping gas. When finished, they went back to pull the nozzle out and the fire started as a result of static.
3. Most had on rubber-soled shoes.
4. Most men never get back into their vehicles until completely finished. This is why they are seldom involved in these types of fires.
5. Don't ever use cell phones when pumping gas.
6. It is the vapors that come from the gas that cause the fire, when connected with static charges.
7. There were 29 fires where the vehicle was re-entered and the nozzle was touched during re fueling from a variety of makes and models. Some resulted in extensive damage to the vehicle, to the station and to the customer.
8. Seventeen of the fires occurred before, during or immediately after the gas cap was removed and before fueling began.

Mr. Renkes stresses to NEVER get back into your vehicle while filling it with gas. If you absolutely HAVE to get into your vehicle while the gas is pumping, make sure when you get out, to close the door TOUCHING THE METAL, before you ever pull the nozzle out. This way, the static from your body will be discharged before you remove the nozzle.