

# PETROL HANDLING

## The DOs and DON'Ts

- DO** use a fuel retriever wherever possible following the manufacturer's instructions on vapour recovery and use of earthing straps
- DO** drain fuel outdoors or in a well-ventilated area
- DO** warn others verbally and/or by warning signs that fuel draining is in progress
- DO** disconnect the vehicle battery before draining fuel
- DO** remove all combustible materials from the work area
- DO** keep a foam or dry powder extinguisher nearby
- DO** remove petrol via the filler tube where possible
- DO** use adaptors provided by vehicle manufacturers when removing fuel from the fuel lines
- DO** use metal containers with secure caps for holding drained fuel
- DO** ensure that the containers cannot easily be knocked over during filling
- DO** use containers large enough to hold the contents of the fuel tank
- DO** soak up any spills immediately using absorbent granules or similar material
- DO** mark fuel containers with hazard labels to show their contents
- DO** use earthing straps between the vehicle chassis and the metal container to eliminate static electricity
- DO** keep any fuel containers in a well-ventilated, lockable store, preferably outside the work area
- DO** follow the same precautions when transferring fuel from the retriever back to the vehicle or into any other container

- DON'T** drain fuel over or close to a pit or drain because of the risk of flammable vapour accumulating to create an explosive atmosphere
- DON'T** allow work which can produce a source of ignition, such as welding, electrical or other hot work, to be carried out while removing petrol
- DON'T** use any electrical equipment on or near the vehicle while fuel draining is in progress. This includes the use of inspection lamps, cordless phone handsets, mobile phones and pagers
- DON'T** allow smoking in the area
- DON'T** work on a fuel tank or remove a sender unit before removing the fuel
- DON'T** drain fuel into open-topped containers such as buckets and watering cans
- DON'T** drain fuel into a waste oil 'Dalek'
- DON'T** drain fuel into plastic containers except for quantities less than ten litres
- DON'T** store drained or contaminated fuel in the workplace unless it is to be returned to the vehicle immediately
- DON'T** add drained fuel to the waste-oil tank
- DON'T** wear clothing on which petrol has been spilt - stop work and change into uncontaminated clothing before continuing to work



**Remember – careless handling of petrol can cause fires and explosions**