



Flight Information File 2009-03

SUBJECT: Safety while fueling
DATE: July 9, 2009

Two recent safety reports document incidents where the flight crew applied electrical power to the aircraft and operated electrical equipment while the aircraft was being fueled. This type of action increases the possibility of accidental fuel ignition and compromises the safety of the pilot and fuel truck operator.

FAA Order 4040.9D recommends the following safety precautions while fueling aircraft:

- a. The aircraft will be bonded by the use of a cable to the fuel truck or pit, and to the fuel nozzle.
- b. Engine switches and nonessential electrical equipment shall be in the "off" position, or as dictated in the aircraft manual. Operation of an auxiliary power unit, if available while refueling, shall be governed by instructions contained in the appropriate airplane flight manual (AFM) or rotorcraft flight manual (RFM).
- c. Smoking is prohibited aboard and within 100 feet of the aircraft.
- d. No active radar transmitters shall be within 100 feet of the aircraft. Weather radar on the aircraft shall be turned off.
- e. The correct grade of fuel has been put into the aircraft fuel tanks and the quantity received verified.
- f. Fuel shall be checked for presence of water in accordance with the aircraft flight manual, pilot's operating handbook, or manufacturers' recommendations.