



OFFICE OF INSURANCE AND SAFETY FIRE COMMISSIONER

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November 3, 2008

Georgia Oilmen's Association
1775 Spectrum Drive, Suite 100
Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043

Dear Mr. Roger Lane
President, Georgia Oilmen's Association:

The State Fire Marshal's Office would like to remind all Georgia self-service station owners and operators of the rules and regulations regarding attendants at self-service stations open to the public. First and foremost, there shall always be an attendant on duty while a self-service station is open for business. This requirement prohibits self-service stations from allowing customers to dispense fuel during times when an attendant is not present (such as unattended overnight operations when the store is otherwise closed). The attendant at all times shall have a clear and unobstructed view to all dispensers. While flammable and combustible liquids, such as gasoline and diesel, are being dispensed, at least one attendant shall not be assigned nor perform any duties that might cause distraction or prevention of properly supervising the dispensing of flammable and combustible liquids. We all know that emergency situations can occur in an instant and reaction needs to be quick. Attendants need to know what is happening in the fueling area (are customers smoking or talking on their cell phones) and what to do when an emergency arises (such as activating the emergency shutoff switch or using the fire extinguisher if necessary).

Too many self-service stations are reportedly leaving their pumps on overnight with no attendant on duty. This poses a great safety concern to Georgia consumers (especially at those facilities where emergency shutoff switches are located inside of the building where consumers do not have access) and the State Fire Marshal's Office will not tolerate those facilities that violate the rules. Those owners or operators found in violation of the Georgia Rules and Regulations 120-3-11, "Rules and Regulations for Flammable and Combustible Liquids," will be fined up to suspension of their permit to dispense flammable liquids.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (404) 656-9798.

Sincerely,

Chris Stephens
Assistant State Fire Marshal