

Things Everyone Should Know!

Beware of static electricity at the gas pumps!

There's a deadly danger that lurks at the gas station, yet few people may be aware of it. Since the early 1990's, 129 fires have broken out at the pumps, killing some people and wounding others, according to the Petroleum Equipment Institute.

The fires were ignited by static electricity and most occurred after the engine was left running and the person re-entered the vehicle to keep warm or retrieve their wallet. Re-entering the vehicle can potentially create friction against the car seat, which will build up static electricity in the whole body. When removing the nozzle from the gas tank, sparks from the static electricity are capable of causing a fire.

Make sure to ground yourself by touching a piece of metal — like your car door before you touch the pump once it has filled up your gas tank. The point is to touch something besides the nozzle to discharge the electricity from your body.



Despite these dangers, only the SPHINX OIL Company, a chain of 80 gas stations in South Carolina, is planning to put up "Touch Me" stickers that are placed over metal near the gasoline pumps. Most gas stations today, however, do post warnings against using a cell phone or smoking a cigarette while fueling up.

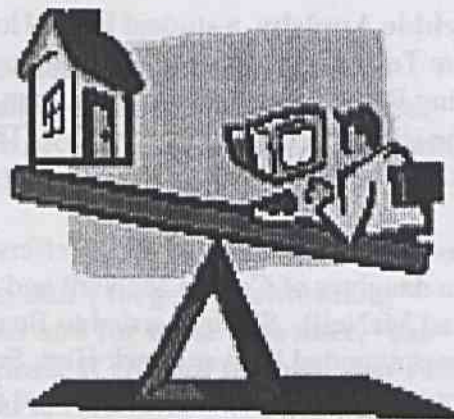
—adapted from CNN.com

Don't O.D. on Work!!

Here's one for all the graduates!

Too often, workaholics devastate the family: they treat their spouses and children as subordinates, they bring their laptops on vacations, etc. In short, they can't get away from the daily grind. Work is the only thing that empowers them and gives them a sense of accomplishment in life.

If you are the spouse of a workaholic, there are measures you can take to head off the problem before it kills the marriage. One thing you can't do is simply say, "Don't work." That's because the



workaholic will have a prepared, fail-safe answer, namely that he or she is doing it for the family. Before you know it the two of you will be involved in a power struggle. Instead, what you can do is talk to the workaholic and focus on what needs you have and how they are beginning to become neglected.

The truth is if you let the workaholic keep on working and don't address the problem early on, the gulf between you will only widen. Divorce could be the final outcome, according to Workaholics Anonymous in Menlo Park, Calif., a self-help group with 32 U.S. chapters.

—adapted from *The Wall Street Journal*