



SafetyLetter

February 2015

A technician was performing tank tightness tests on a site that had been closed for a long period of time. In order to test the tanks, the technician had to cap off the vent lines, which were located on top of a canopy. As the technician stepped onto the canopy, it began to shift. The tech quickly retreated to his bucket truck. **The submitting company noted that technicians performing similar work do not always have access to a bucket truck and sometimes use ladders. According to the submitting company, had the tech been using a ladder, he would likely have fallen off of the canopy as it began to shift. An investigation of the canopy revealed that a column had "rusted completely through at the base."** The company notes that the near miss serves as a reminder that you should always investigate the workplace thoroughly, especially when unfamiliar with the site or area you are working in. The PEI Safety Committee notes that anytime a tech is introduced to a new site, especially a site that has been closed for a period of time, a full site inspection should be performed before work commences. In this case, a site inspection would have noted the lack of structural integrity of the canopy. The committee also recommends using a raised platform, not a ladder, when accessing a canopy. In the case that a ladder *must* be used, the committee notes that a "spotter" should be available to assist the tech working at heights. **All employees working at heights, whether on a ladder or raised platform, should use proper fall protection.**

A service tech reported a near miss when he was dispatched to work on a leaking dispenser. After arriving at the job, the tech "checked in" with the cashier, letting him know he would be troubleshooting the leak. As the tech authorized the pump, the site manager yelled for him to stop. The site manager explained that the leak was related to the hose and nozzle, not the dispenser. The site manager informed the tech that prior to his arrival, a customer had been sprayed when fueling his vehicle. The manager was then sprayed as he attempted to assist the customer. **According to the submitting company, this near miss serves as a reminder that while working on a jobsite, communication is of the utmost importance. The company notes that prior to arriving at the jobsite, the tech should have discussed the job with the dispatcher in an attempt to fully understand the details. Upon arriving at the site, the company continued, the tech should have talked with the person who reported the leak in effort to completely understand the problem. The company also notes that while on a jobsite, techs should always wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when the job is leak-related and always be prepared to contain a fuel spill with the proper tools and absorbents. The PEI Safety Committee notes that when working on or inspecting dispensers, techs should be sure to delineate the work area to prevent the spraying of customers. The committee recommends techs have a fire extinguisher/spill kit nearby. The committee also notes that once a technician arrives at a jobsite, the check-in should always include the employee that reported the leak.**

Suggestions made by the PEI Safety Committee are offered for informational purposes only. PEI assumes no responsibility for the results produced from the advice offered by the Committee.

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This PEI *SafetyLetter* has been reviewed by:

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