Fuel Geyser Awareness Discussions for Stihl Chainsaws

If the saw you are using stops running or is running poorly—

STOP!!! Do Not Remove the Fuel Cap!!!

- Move away from any ignition sources and look through the opaque tank to see if it has ½ tank or more of fuel, or if the saw is out of fuel.

THINK!!! What is the issue?

- If it is out of fuel, then normal re-fueling procedures apply.
- If there is more than ½ tank of fuel in the saw, you may be in a possible geyser condition.
- Saws which suddenly stop continue to build heat – start the “Hot Saw Start Procedure” as soon as you can.

ACT! Use the “Hot Saw Start Procedure”

Saws are air cooled and will continue to heat up once they stop suddenly

- Close Choke
- Pull starter rope until saw fires, or up to 20 times maximum
- If saw fires, place choke in “start” position
- Pull starter rope until saw starts or up to 10 times maximum
- If the saw starts, - keep it running! Once it has cooled to normal operating temperature, the saw should run normally.
- If the saw does not start, discontinue use.
- Place in shade and let cool

Anytime your remove the fuel cap, Expect a pressurized tank and possible geyser!

- Move away from any ignition points
- Wear all PPE including safety glasses (No Bug Eyes)
- Cover the cap with a rag to deflect any fuel.
- Open slowly expecting the fuel to geyser

If you experience a Geyser with or without injury:

- Collect a sample of the fuel if possible
- Record weather conditions (Temperature and Relative Humidity)
- Document the condition leading up to the event.