

FCC Consumer Advisory

Wireless Phones at Gas Stations

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has been alerted to recent reports and rumors that suggest it is dangerous to use a wireless phone while filling your vehicle with gas or in the presence of flammable materials.

There is no evidence that these reports are true.

One of the reports circulating describes incidents where consumers are injured by fires or explosions when they use their cell phones at gas stations. In these stories, a fire was reportedly ignited or an explosion occurred when an individual's phone rang and was answered. Supposedly, an electrical spark from the phone ignited the fires or caused the explosion.

These reports are not supported by any documentation that the fire and/or explosion was caused by the wireless phone – or that the incidents even occurred.

The rumors and reports may be fueled by warnings posted at gas stations or included in wireless phone owners' manuals suggesting that wireless phones should not be used around fuel vapors.

Scientific testing, however, has not established a dangerous link between the two. Wireless phone manufacturers and fuel companies have issued these warnings as a precaution. If you have questions about your wireless phone, contact your wireless phone company.

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To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on www.fcc.gov/cgb/emailservice.html.

This document is for consumer education purposes only and is not intended to affect any proceeding or cases involving this subject matter or related issues.

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