January 2012

SAFETY BULLETIN ALERT:

Quick Reference Guide for Emergency Responders

New Fuel Blend Entering Market: E15

The EPA has recently approved a new fuel blend that will be appearing in the marketplace for consumer use. Emergency responders should be aware of the introduction and distribution of **E15** (blend of no less than 85% gasoline and up to 15 % by volume ethanol). This blend is an increase from the most common gasoline - ethanol fuel blend of 10 volume % ethanol, normally referred to as E10. E15 may be present at terminals, in highway cargo trucks, and at retail fueling stations for consumer use. Until further data is developed or suggests otherwise, E15 should be treated in emergency response conditions involving spills or fire in the same manner as other high concentrations of polar/ water miscible commodities.

Identifying E15

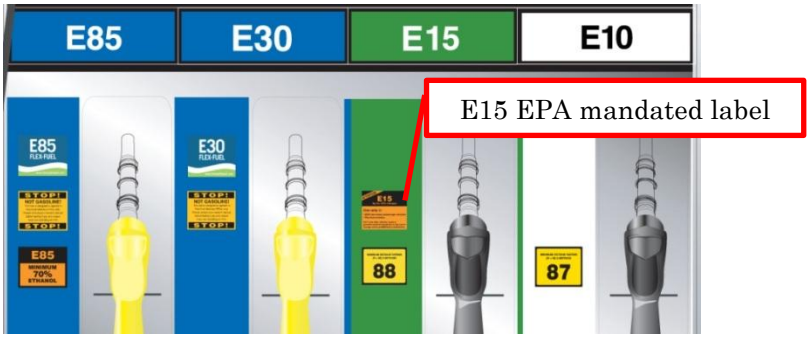
The following images are provided to assist in identifying E15 when it is being transported on highway cargo containers and labeled at retail fueling stations.

Proper Shipping Name and ID	Ethanol Concentration
Ethanol and Gasoline Mixtures UN 3475	11% - 99% by volume

Designated Placard

EPA Mandated Retail Fuel Pump Label

Retail Blender Pump



E15* Emergency Response Options:

The Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Guide Book lists these products in the Orange Guide Pages under Guide 127 for Flammable Liquids (Polar/ Water-miscible) with some additions:

Eliminate all ignition sources (no smoking, flares, sparks, or flames in immediate area)

- Area must be well ventilated.
- All equipment used when handling the product must be grounded.
- Do not touch or walk through spilled material.
- Stop leaks if you can do it without risk.
- Prevent entry into waterways, sewers, basements or confined areas.
- A vapor suppressing alcohol resistant foam may be used to reduce vapors.

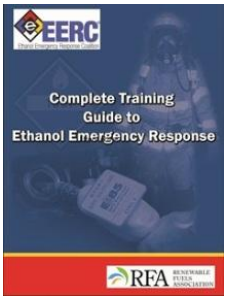
**E15 should be treated as a polar solvent when involved in both spill and fire scenarios. It is considered a Class 3 Flammable liquid, and is somewhat water soluble and may conduct electricity.*

Fires involving the ethanol-gasoline blend containing 15% ethanol should be extinguished using Alcohol Resistant Type Foam to enable the most effective tactical response.

AR-AFFF should be applied using UL defined "Type II" application in a fixed or semi-fixed storage type application. **Type II application** is a fixed discharge applied to a vertical surface to provide a more gentle application with minimal plunging or submergence (based on EERC Foam Performance Study). During highway cargo container scenarios, a Type 3 portable application should be used. For the response team, this means directing the foam onto a vertical surface (BOUNCING, ROLLING, OR RAINING DOWN), then allowing it to run down onto the fuel surface. Other types of foam or water additives are ineffective in extinguishing higher ethanol blends because the foam blanket is destroyed when it strikes the fuel surface.

The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) has developed the *Complete Training Guide to Ethanol Emergency Response*. For more information on the education, prevention, and response to ethanol emergencies, please visit:

www.ethanolresponse.com.



This Guide includes videos, PowerPoint's, and a guide for an instructor led training session. Topics covered range from the chemical and physical characteristics of ethanol, to foam fire-fighting principles, to fire incidents involving ethanol.

The *Complete Training Guide to Ethanol Emergency Response* may be obtained by visiting www.ethanolresponse.com or by contacting the RFA at info@ethanolrfa.org.

For additional information on E15 fuel blends, please call the RFA office at 202.289.3835 or visit the www.E15fuel.org website.

RFA RENEWABLE FUELS ASSOCIATION