

NF Foam Lines

National Foam®

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Wetting Agent Facts - Is Your Scene Secure?

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Do Not Confuse NFPA 11 With NFPA 18

1. Wetting Agents are not FAA approved for use in crash vehicles - this should be your first clue.
2. Wetting Agents are not U.L. approved for use in foam fire suppression systems that protect gasoline, fuel oil tanks and loading docks.
3. Wetting Agents do not seem to work on low flash point fuels soaked into the earth, as they rely on agitation with fuel to mix with water.
4. Wetting Agents do not seem work when pooled gasoline fires have no water under them. See YouTube video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml9C0zPfnT0&feature=context-gch>
5. Most wetting Agents are hi-performance detergents having no specific foaming chemistry. Do not expect AFFF like foam.
6. National's Knockdown, Class A has the same U.L. listing as popular wetting agents, often at a lower application rate. We do not recommend it for gasoline spill firefighting due it's not having an NFPA standing or U.L. approvals for E-10 gasoline.
7. There are no U.L. application rate with wetting agents and they show no evidence that an unignited spill is secure.
8. Wetting Agents have no U.L., Factory Mutual or U.S. Coast Guard approvals for use on gasoline blended with ethanol.
9. Wetting Agents do nothing special for ethanol or methanol fires. Ethanol extinguishes with plain water at a 5:1 dilute.
10. Wetting Agents are U.L. fire tested on heptane, not E-10, E-15 or E-85 gasoline.
11. Check gasoline MSDS for firefighting. They say to use FOAM, not wetting agents.
12. Wetting agents are great for class A firefighting. Although most do not foam like class A foam. They are great for oil spill clean up, degreasing and batch mixing in water tanks. However, treated tank water may be a de-foamer if used to make class B foam.