

Fuel buyers, watch out for contaminated batch

If you have bought diesel fuel at the Union 76 service station on Auburn, just west of Crooks in Avon Township since Jan. 11, then beware: The diesel fuel might be mixed with a highly flammable concentration of gasoline and could explode.

Diesel fuel is used in diesel-powered cars such as the Mercedes and some Volkswagon Rabbits, in many trucks and in some home space heaters.

Station attendants have reported selling several five-gallon cans of the faulty mixture instead of diesel fuel

since Jan. 11, when a private hauler allegedly filled a diesel fuel storage tank at the station with gasoline. The error was repeated, they said, Jan. 15.

Station owner Walter Simpkins said Wednesday the mix-up had never happened before to his knowledge. The tank openings at the station are color-coded for gasoline or diesel fuel, he said.

THE GASOLINES WAS DELIVERED FROM Marline Distributors of Troy by a private hauler.

The tank with the faulty mixture had

been shut down and will be drained and cleaned before refilling it with diesel fuel, Simpkins said. He said the procedure would take a day or two, and might cause some shortages in the area because not many service stations sell diesel fuel.

Avon Fire Chief Mark Belkoff said the faulty mixture is potentially explosive, and Simpkins agreed.

"We don't know how much of his mixture is diesel fuel and how much is gasoline," Belkoff said. "But it could be extremely volatile."

Belkoff appeared on area television

stations Tuesday to warn of the mix-up and potential danger and asked that further questions be directed to him via the ROCHESTER POLICE DISPATCHER: 631-9611.

THE BASIC difference between gasoline and diesel fuel, Belkoff explained, is that diesel fuel emits vapors that ignite at approximately 100 degrees Fahrenheit while gasoline vapors burn at temperatures as low as 45 degrees Fahrenheit.

The greatest danger is to persons who use the fuel mixture in small

space heaters. A car or truck will simply sputter an stall with the faulty mixture, but certain space heaters could explode. "Somebody's liable to wake up in the morning and be missing a garage," Simpkins said.

The station owner has tried tracking down steady customers who use the diesel fuel through their credit card identification, but he said others may have bought the faulty mixture that he's not aware of.

The faulty mixture was discovered shortly before 1 p.m. Tuesday by the driver of a semi-truck after a fillup at

the service station. The truck began to sputter, and upon investigating, the driver detected the smell of gasoline in the fuel tank.

Belkoff visited the station Tuesday afternoon to test the suspicious mixture. He poured a small amount in a small container and lit it with a match.

"It sashed and we knew right away it was something other than fuel oil," Belkoff said.

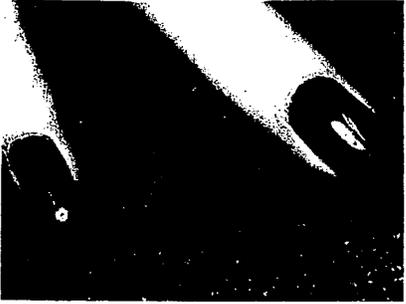
Belkoff called in the state fire marshal, who will study the faulty mixture further.

Diamonds can ice winter blahs

By RUSTLE SHAND

Diamonds at your finger tips promise to chase away the January blahs and light up your life, particularly when they join diamonds at your ears, ankles and wrists.

The latest status symbol flashes a clear message of elegance and leisure. It promises relief from tiresome chores. After all, who would expect these lovely hands to do menial work such as washing dishes,



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Try a diamond chip on one little finger-nail for a total cost of \$15, including the nail and diamond. Jennifer instructs Jennifer. The smallest diamond may be \$15, but you can sparkle even more brightly for \$70. The process is a natural for any old gem chips that you may have lying about the house.

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The unique process of nail extension used at Valentine Nails can transform care-worn hands into things of beauty with or without the diamond inset. The porcelain type material may be applied to all ten nails, then designed to any length or shape.

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