Employees have reported an increase in the number of incidents and injuries involving fuel geysering—the rapid expulsion of fuel that results from excessive pressure in power equipment and fuel storage containers. The National Technology and Development Program (NTDP) has been working with chainsaw manufacturers and the portable power industry to search for engineering solutions to these events. To date, no viable solutions are available. In light of the approaching field and fire season, I want to emphasize ways you can proactively protect yourselves, our volunteers and our employees:

- **Be aware.** Fuel geysering can occur anytime there is fuel, heat, and pressure. It is not just chainsaws—geysering occurs with fuel bottles, leaf blowers, fuel cans, and other multi-position small engines. Anticipate that anytime you open a gas cap, a geysering event could occur. Therefore, **never** remove a fuel cap anywhere near an ignition source.


- **Be engaged.** Report all incidents of geysering ([http://bit.ly/fuelgeyser_reporting](http://bit.ly/fuelgeyser_reporting)). This will help define the conditions causing these events.

All reported chainsaw geysering events resulting in injury involved Stihl brand chainsaws. Unlike Stihl, other brands have vented fuel tanks. When operating properly, these chainsaws should not geyser. After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, the Office of Safety and Occupational Health and the Director of Acquisition Management, **I am directing the Forest Service to suspend the purchase of Stihl brand chainsaws until further notice.**

NTDP is available to help identify comparable chainsaw models.

For additional information, contact Ralph Gonzales, NTDP Fire and Fuel Program Lead, rhgonzales@fs.fed.us or (909) 929-7059.

/s/ Lenise Lago (for)
VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Interim Chief

cc: Emilee Blount, Ralph H. Gonzales, Shawna Legarza, George A. Sears, Steven C. Schlientz, Alex Gavrisheff