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*For immediate release...*

## **LRAPA reminds drivers at self-serve stations to not ‘top off’ their gas tanks**

LANE COUNTY — The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) reminds drivers at self-serve gas stations not to ‘top off’ their gas tank to keep Lane County’s air clean and healthy.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, a new rule from the Oregon State Fire Marshal temporarily gives gas stations the freedom to allow customers to pump their own gas.

“Some Oregonians may be pumping gas for the first time,” says LRAPA’s public affairs manager Travis Knudsen. “We want to remind drivers that topping off their tank not only can damage their vehicle, but it is also a waste of gas and money and is harmful to the air we breathe.”

Topping off is when additional gas is added to the tank after the nozzle automatically clicks off, indicating the tank is full.

Most vehicles have an Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery (ORVR) system which captures Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) from escaping the fuel line and entering the atmosphere. When VOCs, in combination with nitrogen oxide, are exposed to ultraviolet radiation and heat from the sun they become ozone. ORVR systems keep VOCs from entering the atmosphere and minimize harmful exposure to ground level ozone.

“When a tank is topped off at the pump, that fuel saturates the ORVR making it ineffective and the fumes pollute our air,” says Knudsen. “It also results in a poorly running vehicle, higher emissions and potentially an expensive repair bill.”

Oregon law prohibits topping off vehicle fuel tanks.

Additional information about air quality requirements for gasoline dispensing facilities from the Oregon DEQ may be found here: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/12aq033.pdf>

Additional information about ozone and its effect on air quality and health may be found on the Oregon EPA’s website here: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/pamphlets-about-ozone-effects-air-quality-and-health>

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