Seven (7) Steps for Safe Chainsaw Fuel Handling:

1. **Move 20 feet or more from any heat source** before removing the fuel cap. Remember a hot chainsaw engine or exhaust can potentially ignite spilled fuel.
2. **Check the fuel level** by looking through the side of the translucent tank before removing the fuel cap.
3. If fuel level is above ½ tank and the equipment has been running poorly, **allow the engine to cool for 15 minutes before removing fuel cap**. A vapor-locked chainsaw has a higher probability of geysering. Indications of vapor lock include but are not limited to: a) engine running poorly, 2) engine acts like it is running out of fuel, and 3) engine stops but still has fuel.
4. **Expect a fuel release** any time a fuel cap is removed and plan accordingly. Remember fuel can be sprayed from the tank in a 360 degree radius as it is opened. This applies to all caps but in particular tool-less (quarter turn) chainsaw caps.
5. **Open cap slowly**. Stop rotation and hold at the first detent on chainsaws with the tool-less (quarter turn) fuel cap.
6. **Use fresh fuel mix** – Do not use fuel older than one month. Gasoline purchased in winter months is more volatile and boils at a lower temperature. Do not use fuel that has a strange odor.
7. **Ensure and double-check** that the chainsaw cap is correctly installed before returning to operation.

Always assume all fuel tanks and containers are pressurized before removing the fuel cap.

**Additional Information:**
Watch the: [WFSTAR Fuel Handling Training Video](#) (May 2016)
Read the: [Six Minutes for Safety Fuel Handling Part 2](#)
Review the July 2016: [Pioneer Fire Burn Injury](#)