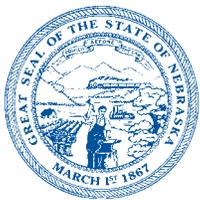


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CHANGES COMING TO NEBRASKA'S GASOLINE SOON

LINCOLN -- AAA Nebraska and the Nebraska Energy Office want Nebraskans to know changes will be coming to the state's low and mid-grade motor fuels in September.

According to the Nebraska Energy Office, there are three levels of gasoline: low grade, midgrade, and high grade. Each grade has an octane level, which varies from state to state. In Nebraska, regular unleaded gasoline has an 87 to 88 octane. Mid-grade gasoline has an 89 to 90 octane, which includes some octane boosters such as ethanol, and includes E-10. Premium gasoline has a 91 or higher octane level.

In the past, 87 octane gasoline was delivered to the state by refiners. Beginning in September, refiners will be delivering sub-octane unleaded gasoline with a level of 84. Local suppliers will then blend the sub-octane gasoline with ethanol or premium gasoline to get the octane up to 87 for regular unleaded gasoline.

"This fuel changeover went smoothly in other states," Ginger Willson, Director of the Nebraska Energy Office said. "States in the upper Midwest, including Nebraska and Iowa, are some of the last states changing to this grade of fuel. For decades, Nebraskans have used ethanol fuel in vehicles, but will notice a change at the station."

The change in gasoline formulation is being driven by several factors, including simplification of the gasoline production process. By eliminating the 87 octane gasoline, refiners will be able to more readily supply gasoline to all regions, lessening the number of state-specific formulas. The second factor is the Renewable Fuel Standard that requires transportation fuel sold in the nation to contain a minimum volume of renewable fuels, and that amount has been increasing each year as required under the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*.

"Most consumers already use Ethanol fuel blends. They will not be impacted by this change. For those who remain concerned about their older car, recreational vehicle, or small engine unit, we recommend that you check your owner's manual first before using any new fuel blend," advises Rose White, Public Affairs Director, AAA Nebraska. "Most consumers will find that the new low-grade blend will meet the manufacturer's requirements or recommendations. If the new blend is not recommended, consumers may need to consider using a premium fuel which currently costs an average of 27 cents more per gallon."

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The Nebraska Energy Office was created in 1977 to promote the efficient, economic and environmentally responsible use of energy in Nebraska. In 2008, the Energy Office became a stand-alone agency within state government with the Director serving as a member of the Governor's Cabinet. Join the Energy Office on [Facebook](#). Follow the Energy Office on [Twitter](#).