Limiting Fuel Transported To Limit Regulatory Requirements

The type of driver’s license and training required depend on the amount of fuel being transported and the size and type of the fuel container. If no more than 440 pounds of hazardous materials (including the weight of the containers) are being transported in containers with a capacity of no more than 8 gallons, shipping papers are not required. The only training needed is OSHA Hazard Communication training and DOT Materials of Trade training. The 440 pounds includes all hazardous materials being transported, not just gasoline, mixed gas, or drip-torch fuel. For example, if you are carrying 140 pounds of fusees, you may carry only 300 pounds of fuel and containers. Empty containers that contain residual amounts of fuel also must be included in the 440-pound weight limit.

If the overall weight being transported is more than 440 pounds, but less than 1,001 pounds, or if the capacity of any container is more than 8 gallons but is 119 gallons or less, the following are required:
- Shipping papers must be carried in the vehicle (page 18).
- A copy of the Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) must be carried in the vehicle (page 19).
- Additional training is required (page 23).

When a shipment weighs 1,001 pounds or more or when fuel is being carried in a container larger than 119 gallons, the following are required:
- A commercial driver’s license (CDL) with a hazardous materials endorsement.

To avoid the need for a commercial driver’s license, limit the total amount of fuel being transported to 119 gallons or less than 1,001 pounds.

- Shipping papers (carried in the vehicle, page 18).
- The Emergency Response Guidebook (carried in the vehicle, page 19).
- Additional training (page 23).
- In certain States—a tank endorsement.

To avoid the need for shipping papers and to reduce training requirements, limit the total amount of hazardous materials—including fuel being transported—to 440 pounds, with no fuel container larger than 8 gallons.