

Grounding Vs. Bonding

Every self-serve avgas system with which we're familiar at some point asks if you have grounded the plane. Technically, they should ask if you have bonded it, but since that is a less-familiar term, it would result in confusion.

Bonding is simply a procedure done to prevent you from getting shocked when you contact two components with different charges. By running a bonding wire from the pumping device to your aircraft, the act of making the bond equalizes the charge and therefore minimizes the chance of shock when you touch the fueling nozzle to the fuel fill opening.

Grounding is a bit different because it requires creating a path for stray electrical current to go out of all the attached objects. To some extent, both are usually at play because fueling systems will be grounded so when you bond yourself to the fuel station, by extension you are grounded to its ground point. If an aircraft is bonded to the fuel truck, you will only be grounded if the fuel truck is connected to a ground post on the ramp.

