

Spotlight On Safety

www.ehs.ucr.edu

ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS (ASTs)

June 2020



Most aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) containing oil products must fulfill requirements of the federal Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Rule¹ and California Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA).² SPCC and APSA rules apply to facilities with aggregate oil storage capacity greater than 1,320 gallons. Comprehensive spill prevention and response planning to protect water resources and our environment is done by each campus organization that has oil storage.

AST Requirements

- ✦ Secondary containment to contain spills and detect leaks
 - Double walled ASTs and piping have an inner space that serves as the primary storage and an outer space that serves as the secondary containment
- ✦ If AST and piping are not double walled, secondary containment must:
 - Be capable of containing oil
 - Be designed to address the most likely quantity of oil from the primary container and any piping so that any discharge will not escape before cleanup occurs
 - Have sufficient freeboard to contain precipitation
 - Contain 110 % of the contents of the largest tank
 - Contain amount of precipitation from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event
 - Be inspected before being drained of precipitation
- ✦ Regular inspections to ensure good condition and detect leaks
- ✦ Mechanical or electronic leak detection equipment
- ✦ Overfill prevention equipment
- ✦ An AST that has remained out of service for a year or more must be placed out of service or removed. If placed out of service:
 - Remove all contents and completely clean the inside
 - Clearly label tank with the date and the words “Out of Service”
 - Tanks must be inspected and meet leak prevention requirements before they are placed back in service

Spill and Leak Prevention Measures

- ✦ Documented tank filling and dispensing procedures must be followed
- ✦ Consider the location and distance of any proposed tank installation relative to storm drains or swales, sanitary sewers, drains or other waterways
- ✦ Corrosion protection must be provided and maintained
- ✦ Seal floors, containment area, and sump pump pit with containment coating
- ✦ Protect ASTs from potential damage caused by vehicles or vandalism
- ✦ Tanks must be integrity tested according to applicable industry standards

Visit <https://ehs.ucr.edu> or call (951) 827-5528 for additional information.

¹ Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 112

² California Health and Safety Code §25270-25270.13