San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Hazardous Materials Section
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Compliance Made Easy– APSA

COMMON ABOVEGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE ACT (APSA) VIOLATIONS

APSA regulates aboveground storage tank (AST) facilities storing 1,320 gallons or more of petroleum products. Only containers with a capacity of 55 gallons or greater are counted. APSA also regulates AST stored in an underground area.

A. Failure to prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan:
1. Qualified facilities are those with a total aboveground storage capacity of 10,000 gallons or less:
i. Facilities with individual aboveground storage containers ≤5,000 gallons can complete a Tier I template.
ii. Facilities with a container >5,000 gallons up to 10,000 gallons storage capacity can complete a Tier II template.
For additional information please visit the Office of the State Fire Marshal website at https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act
2. Non-Qualified Facilities are those with a total aboveground storage capacity greater than 10,000 gallons: A licensed Professional Engineer must review and certify an SPCC plan for non-qualified facilities.

B. Failure to maintain a copy of the SPCC plan onsite: Facilities are required to maintain a complete copy of the SPCC plan on site if normally attended at least 4 hours per day, or at the nearest field office if the facility is not so attended.

C. Failure to amend the SPCC plan within six months: The SPCC plan must be updated when there is a change in the facility design, construction, operation or maintenance that materially affects its potential for a discharge. Note: A Professional Engineer must certify any technical amendments for non-qualified facilities.

D. Failure to complete a review and evaluation of the SPCC plan at least once every five years.

E. Failure to test or inspect each aboveground container for integrity: Integrity testing must consider applicable industry standards. The integrity testing program must determine the appropriate qualifications for personal performing test and inspections, the frequency and type of testing and inspections, which take into account container size, configuration, and design. Aboveground containers must be tested or inspected for integrity on a regular schedule and whenever material repairs are done.

F. Failure to provide adequate secondary containment: Bulk storage tanks require containment for the entire capacity of the largest single container and sufficient freeboard precipitation.

G. Failure to provide overfill prevention devices to avoid discharges while filling AST(s).

H. Failure to conduct training: Oil handling personnel must be trained in the operation and maintenance of equipment to prevent discharges; discharge procedure protocols; applicable pollution control laws, rules and regulations; facility operations; and the content of the SPCC plan.

I. Failure to conduct SPCC briefings annually: Discharge prevention briefings for oil-handling personnel must be scheduled and conducted at least once a year to assure adequate understanding of the SPCC Plan.

J. Failure to conduct inspections, tests and records in accordance with written procedures and failure to maintain records for a period of three years.

K. Failure to submit a Tank Facility Statement of a complete Business Plan through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS).
For more information, please visit our website or contact a subject matter specialist at 909-386-8401.

Revised: 05/2024