

Fuel Storage Regulations

Are you thinking of storing bulk fuel in above ground tanks? Did you know that according to local fire codes, all above-ground storage tanks MUST follow strict guidelines?

The applicable Fire Code regulations are as follows:

1. According to the NFPA 30 (National Fire Protection Association code) all above-ground tanks storing gasoline, diesel and kerosene must be constructed of steel, and have secondary containment capable of holding 110 per cent of the tanks' volume.
2. The tank must have a vent, which must be at least a 1-1/4" diameter steel pipe that is no less than 12 feet above grade (grade meaning above ground level).
3. Tanks are to be placed and anchored on steel or concrete supports.
4. The tank must have an emergency vent and a fill-point spill catchment, plus a fill tube that terminates 6 inches from the bottom of the tank.
5. Tank owners and operators must clearly label the contents of all tanks.
6. Unmanned tanks must display a sign, with the operator's name and phone number.
7. The tank's capacity must be labeled on the tank, and a level gauge should be visible to the operator filling the tank.
8. A 20-pound ABC fire extinguisher must be installed no closer than 20 feet, but no farther than 100 feet, from the tank.
9. An overfill protection system must be installed. It must include an alarm that

sounds when the liquid level in the tank reaches 90 per cent capacity, and automatically stops delivery of liquid to the tank when the liquid level in the tank reaches 95 per cent capacity.

10. The NFPA 30's minimum safe distances for placing tanks from property lines or public ways must be followed, depending on the tank capacity. They must be installed so that they are protected from possible collision damage. (Contact the Inspectorate for more information.)

11. Applications for all tanks with capacities of more than 250 gallons must be made to the Planning Department, with the required fee of CI \$250.00 per tank.

Instructions on how to safely install and maintain storage tanks can be found in NFPA 30, or obtained by calling Chief Petroleum Inspector Gary McTaggart at 769-FUEL (3835) or Desmond Ebanks at 769-7526 ext. 1518.