FactSheet Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)

Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) is a tank or container that has capacity to store 55 gallons or more of petroleum and that is substantially or totally above the surface of the ground. Examples of petroleum are crude oils, gasoline, heating/lubricating oil, and biodiesel.

AST facilities are regulated by 40 CFR 112 Oil Pollution Prevention, the Clean Water Act, and California Assembly Bill (AB) 1130 Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) and require Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans. The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) enforces APSA and SPCC plan requirements for the state.

What are the AST regulatory requirements in the City of Los Angeles?

1. AST owners/operators must prepare and implement a "Spill Prevention Control & Counter Measure (SPCC) Plan" for their facility if it has an aggregate storage capacity equal to or above 1,320 gallons of petroleum.
2. ASTs are part of the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) which includes: (a) identification of storage sites on the HMBP map and (b) volume of petroleum onsite. The HMBP must be certified annually.
3. Conduct periodic inspections of ASTs to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. Additonally, allow CUPA to inspect each facility.
4. The owner/operator of a tank facility must immediately, upon discovery, notify the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and CUPA of the occurrence of a spill or other release of one barrel (42 gal.) or more of petroleum.

Is USC subject to the SPCC plan and APSA?

Yes. The university has ASTs for diesel fuel (emergency generators), hydraulic fluid (elevators), and/or oil-filled transformers that exceed 1,320 gallons in aggregate.

What I need to know...

- Notify DPS or the Office of EH&S if petroleum fluids are discovered leaking from ASTs.
- The owner/operator of a tank facility must immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and CUPA of the occurrence of a spill upon discovery.
- All AST designated personnel must be trained on spill prevention and emergency response.

Who manages ASTs at USC to meet all applicable regulatory requirements?

Facilities Management Services (FMS) maintains an SPCC Plan at each AST site. Each SPCC requires appropriate containment and/or diversionary structures/equipment to prevent discharged fluid from reaching navigable waters. SPCC plans are updated and certified every 5 years.

Additonally, FMS:

- Performs visual inspections of secondary containment structures, supports, and the foundation.
- Trains designated personnel on spill prevention and emergency response. FMS is positioned to work closely with the Office of EH&S, DPS, and outside agencies on emergency response should a petroleum spill occur.
- Maintains inspection, integrity testing, and training records.

References

40 CFR 112 Oil Pollution Prevention
http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40cfr112_main_02.tpl

Clean Water Act summary
http://www2.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act

California Assembly Bill (AB) 1130 Fact Sheet
www.rivcoeh.org/Portals/0/documents/guidance/hazmat/FactSheetAPSA.pdf

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