UTAH TANK NEWS

INSIDE:

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Underground Storage Tank Branch

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Spill Buckets

By Sean Warner

Photo by David Wilson

Spill buckets have become a hot topic for industry and regulators. These components play a critical role in leak prevention. When spill buckets deteriorate to the point that they can no longer contain spills, the probability of a release at your facility significantly increases.

The Purpose of the Spill Bucket

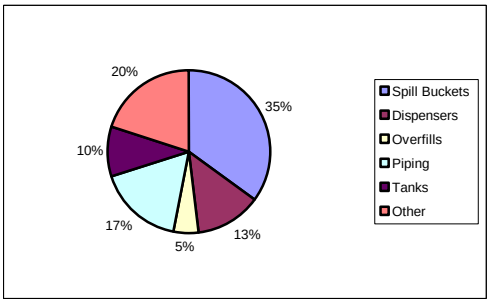
A spill bucket is designed to contain or capture small spills that often occur during a delivery. If not captured, the product will seep directly into the ground and may contaminate the ground water. Without a functional spill bucket each delivery could release up to 3 gallons of product into the ground.

Reliability of Spill Buckets

In 1998 all facilities were required to install spill buckets. Any spill bucket installed during this time period already exceeds the manufactures suggested life expectancy of 5 to 7 years; therefore the probability of being defective is likely.

CROMPCO, a respected testing company, started a pilot project in 1995 to test the integrity of spill buckets. This project tested 381 spill buckets, 249 failed for a failure rate of 65%.

To date, CROMPCO has tested 10,841 spill buckets using a vacuum test method. Of those tested, 6,417 failed for a failure rate of 59%. A separate Florida study found that spill buckets account for 35% of releases.



What to expect

DERR Inspectors will be taking a closer look at spill buckets as they conduct annual inspections. If a spill bucket is deformed or damaged, an integrity test may be necessary. If the spill bucket is obviously non-functional or fails the integrity test, you will be required to repair or replace it.

What you can do

Inspect your spill buckets regularly (especially before and after deliveries) for breaks, cracks, and deformation. It is important to keep the buckets clean and dry; they are not designed to hold product for long periods of time. Water needs to be kept out to prevent damage from freezing in the winter; the lid may need to be replaced to avoid water leaking through. For more information on spill buckets and other issues visit The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation website www.undergroundtanks.utah.gov/. ■

We're Cleaning Up Our Act

By DeAnn Rasmussen

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program Performance

Nationally there have been 447,233 confirmed releases from underground storage tanks (UST) between 1988 and 2004. The remediation process has begun on 412,567, and cleanups have been completed on 317,405 of those releases. In comparison, Utah has 4,120 confirmed releases, and has initiated cleanup of 4,032 of those releases. Remediation has been completed on 3, 681 releases in Utah.

Nationally, from 2003 to 2004 the percentage of new releases decreased by 35%. In 2003 there were 12,078 releases confirmed and the number dropped to 7,848 in 2004. **In Utah, from 2003 to 2004 the percentage decreased by 29% with 84 confirmed releases in 2003 and 64 in 2004. For the current year, 48 confirmed releases have been reported in Utah.**

Nationwide, 1988 to 2004:

447,233 total confirmed UST releases	
412,567 cleanups initiated	92%
317,405 cleanups completed	71%
129,827 cleanups to be remediated	29%

Utah, 1988 to October 1, 2005:

4,120 total confirmed UST releases	
4,032 cleanups initiated	98%
3,681 cleanups completed	89%
439 cleanups to be remediated	11%

Nationwide statistics for this article were found in EPA publication 510-5-05-01. For further information on the EPA Underground Storage Tank Program visit website www.epa.gov/swerust1/. ■

New Federal Regulations

By Gary Harris

President Bush signed the Energy Act of 2005 this past August. The underground storage tank (UST) portion of the Energy Act is intended to improve compliance with regulations in order to prevent leaks and spills. Owners and operators of USTs will be subject to new inspection, training, and delivery requirements under these new Regulations.

One of the provisions that will have the greatest impact on Utah UST facilities is the operator-training requirement. Under the Energy Act EPA must publish guidelines specifying operator-training requirements within two years. These requirements will apply to those workers having over-all responsibility and those having daily responsibilities for on site operation and maintenance of UST systems. Training will also be required for daily-on-site employees having responsibilities for addressing emergencies caused by releases or spills. The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR), UST Section will develop Utah specific training requirements that are consistent with the federal guidelines.

Another focus of the Energy Act is to improve the compliance of the government owned tanks. Within the next year all Federal agencies that own or operate USTs must submit to EPA and Congress, a report listing the location and owners of each tank, identify tanks not in compliance, and their strategy to correct any deficiencies. In addition, DERR will be required to produce an annual report detailing the compliance status of all government owned tanks.

Until passage of the August 2005 Energy Act, the Underground Storage Tank program had not been amended or reauthorized by Congress in 19 years.

If you have questions concerning this article, please contact the UST Section at (801) 536-4160. ■

UST Training Workshop

UST Environmental and Compliance Managers

January 26, 2006
DERR Building
Room 101
10:00 a.m.

For additional information call Victor Scherer at (801) 536-4240

Utah's UST Consultant Certification Program

A Certified UST Consultant must perform any UST release management, abatement, investigation, or corrective action. For questions regarding the UST Consultant Certification Program, and/or to sign up for the exams and renewal courses, please contact Melissa Turchi at (801) 536-0078.

INITIAL EXAMINATION AND RENEWAL COURSE SCHEDULE

Friday December 9, 2005
Friday March 10, 2006
Friday June 9, 2006
Friday September 8, 2006

The renewal course will begin at 9:00 a.m., the comprehensive exam will begin at 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION OF EXAMINATIONS AND COURSES

State of Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

168 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116
Phone: (801) 536-4100

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION
P.O. BOX 144840
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84114-4840

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CERTIFICATION CORNER

PETCON

www.petconinc.com
1-800-852-8374
Installer course
Remover course
Cathodic Protection Tester Course
Solutions Course (re-certification for all certifications except Consultant)
UST Technician Course (for individuals that perform repairs on UST systems)

UVSC

(801) 863-8117/8677
Groundwater/Soil sampler

Re-certification

Tests are given the first Tuesday of each month.
For more info call David Wilson at
(801) 536-4138

ECI

(801) 373-2727
Groundwater/Soil Sampler
By appointment

www.undergroundtanks.utah.gov

UST Consultant

Contact Melissa Turchi at (801) 536-0078