



Tank Talk News & Updates Blog

STI/SPFA has now expanded its coverage of industry news and issues with a new feature on the [STI/SPFA website](#) called Tank Talk News and Updates Blog under the Publications Heading. Not only will this feature include current topics of interest pertaining to steel tanks, pipe, and vessels, but it will also enable readers to post their own thoughts and experiences.

Newsy topics have already been posted on compatibility tests with various ethanol fuel blends on steel, EPA's request for comments on E15 compatibility concerns, ULSD fuel corrosion research, and biofuel compatibility charts for steel tanks needed to do business in California. Visit the new blog [here](#).

Sunoco Supplies NASCAR with E15 Race Fuel

Sunoco announced that it will supply the National Association for Stock Car Racing (NASCAR) with a new high performance fuel for the 2011 season. The new fuel, known as Sunoco Green E15 fuel, is a 15 percent ethanol blend. Sunoco Green will be blended at Sunoco's Marcus Hook, PA facility with the ethanol coming in part from the Sunoco new ethanol manufacturing plant in Fulton, NY. [Courtesy of mfrtech.com.](#)



What's Wrong with this Picture?



Fire codes require emergency vents to vent up and away from the tank so that the flames do not impinge on the tank during a fire incident. The picture here shows a fire where the vent was not installed properly, as it pointed toward a transport truck during an overfill and caused major damage. Read about other [Tank Use Mishaps here](#).

Houston Shuts Down Most of City's Fuel Stations

Houston Mayor Annise Parker plans to shut down two-thirds of the city's 99 fueling stations. Reducing the number of fuel stations is part of an ambitious effort by Parker to balance the budget by shaving \$22 million from fleet operation costs in 2010 and 2011. Some fuel stations will be kept for strategic purposes, such as for emergency vehicles and post-hurricane operations.

Grandfathering - Application of Codes to Existing Facilities

If you operate a place of business, do you fear, "the inspector?" Lurking in the minds of many business owners is a lingering worry that an inspector will walk in one day and wreak havoc on their operation by

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Industry Calendar

[Power Gen Show](#)

December 14 - 16
 Orlando, FL

[SWPMTAC Meeting](#)

January 13 - 14
 Scottsdale, AZ

STI/SPFA Pipe Section Meeting
 January 14
 Scottsdale, AZ

[STI/SPFA SP001 AST Inspector Training](#)

January 17 - 21
 Baltimore, MD

[API Inspection Summit & Expo](#)

January 24 - 27
 Galveston, TX

[13th Annual CUPA Conference](#)

January 31 - February 3
 Garden Grove, CA

[National Biodiesel Conference & Expo](#)

February 6 - 9
 Phoenix, AZ

Ranger Inspection AST Conference
 February 8 - 10
 Calgary, Canada

[The NATSO Show](#)

February 17 - 21
 Lake Buena Vista, FL

[WPMA National Convention & Convenience Store Expo](#)

February 22 - 24
 Las Vegas, NV



requiring expensive upgrades to the facility, equipment or operations.

The most obvious way to manage this fear is to ensure that your facility is safely operated and well maintained. Nevertheless, because codes are voluminous, complex and ever-changing and because inspectors vary in their level of knowledge, training and experience, there is always a possibility that the outcome of a compliance inspection won't go as well as one might hope.

When it comes to dealing with local code enforcement inspections related to fire or building safety, follow these three particularly beneficial pieces of advice:

1. Get it in writing.
2. Know the code.
3. Know your rights.

See the remainder of International Code Consultant [Jeff Shapiro's article](#).

Liquid Assets: The Big Business of Water

Water is our most precious natural resource. With only 3 percent of the world's water existing as fresh water, nearly every continent is feeling the effects of the global water crisis. For some, it is the lack of clean drinking water. For farmers, it is the inability to feed the thirst of valuable crops. Just as "easy oil" has dried up, fresh water has become more difficult to access and transport.

To inform the public of this ever-growing problem, [CNBC](#) has been airing the video, ["Liquid Assets: The Big Business of Water."](#) *Liquid Assets* is a public media and outreach initiative that seeks to educate the nation about the critical role that our water infrastructure plays in protecting public health and promoting economic prosperity. [Watch the trailer](#).

HSE Publishes Report on Electrostatic Risks of Plastic Containers

The British Health Safety & Executive ([HSE Report](#)) entitled, "Plastic Containers for Flammable Liquids/Hazardous Areas," contains an assessment of the electrostatic risks associated with a selection of commonly available plastic containers in sizes ranging from 50 ml bottles to 1000 L intermediate bulk containers, and manufactured from a variety of materials.

A number of recommendations are provided, including that splash filling should be avoided by bottom filling via an earthed conductive fill pipe to help dissipate the charge. Only Rigid Intermediate Bulk Containers (RIBC) intended for flammable liquids should be used for the storage and transportation of flammable liquids. The frame and other conducting parts of the container should be electrically bonded to earth (such as placing the container on the ground) during filling and any operation where electrostatic charging may occur. It is also recommended that plastic containers (RIBS) be checked for integrity at regular intervals.

News from Down Under

Recently in Australia, two different tanks suffered damages due to wind and fire.

[Click here](#) to see one of the damaged tanks,

Additional Events

Scheduled:

[2010 - 2011 Industry Calendar of Meetings, Seminars & Conferences](#)

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where a secondhand bulk fuel storage tank caught fire during the initial fill process. A third party reports the vent pipe was improperly installed to the interstitial opening, causing the tank to pressurize during the fire. There was combustible material surrounding the tank that contributed to the fire. Lack of qualified first response, inadequate firefighting supplies and improper tank location further exacerbated the situation.



The picture above shows the effect of wind on a large tank that was damaged overnight during the construction phase.

Steel Tank Standards Update

STI R972, Recommended Practice for the Addition of Supplemental Anodes to sti-P3 Tanks, was recently revised and published. A committee of corrosion experts and regulatory representatives reached a consensus to reflect best practices. See more at [STI/SPFA Publications](#).

STI R091, Standard for Tanks Storing DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) is now incorporating names of tank lining products that have been tested to ISO standards. Sherwin Williams Phenicon HS, a novoloc immersion grade epoxy, was the first material to be adopted into the standard.

Fuel Efficiency Chart

Ever wonder how many British Thermal Units (BTUs) of energy can be extracted from different fuels? *The Argus*, a monthly newsletter of the North Carolina Petroleum & Convenience Marketers Association, recently published a chart comparing different energy sources. TankTalk extracted a portion of *The Argus'* chart below to show how much fuel or electricity is needed to provide 1,000,000 BTUs.

- 8.33 Gallons Gasoline
- 7.13 Gallons #2 Fuel Oil
- 10.93 Gallons Propane
- 10 Therms Natural Gas
- 293 KiloWatt Hours of Electricity
- 6.43 Gallons #6 Fuel Oil
- 7.41 Gallons Kerosene

In Memoriam of Vivian Peek Bartt

November 12, 1950 - September 28, 2010

STI/SPFA is deeply saddened by the sudden loss of our friend and colleague Vivian Peek Bartt. Vivian's vibrant personality brought so much life into the office and the pages of Tank Talk as Editor. We were blessed to have had her in our presence and she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Our deepest condolences to her family, who were so fortunate to have her as a daughter, mother, grandmother and wife.



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