

## A Storm Is Coming

Laura Daye and Tanitra Marshall, Compliance Inspectors

As the 2006 hurricane season gets underway, tank owners should remember the lessons from last year in Louisiana and Mississippi as described in our Spring 2006 UST NEWS Special Edition. Although there are no guarantees, there are some precautionary measures tank owners can take to soften the blow from a hurricane or tropical storm. Before the storm:

1. Check into the availability of manual product pumps to be used after a storm before electrical service is restored.
2. Ensure that the caps on tank risers and fill spouts are tight to help keep water out of the tank.
3. Ensure vent lines have proper caps to reduce the amount of water and debris that might enter through the vent lines. The vent lines should be properly anchored at the transition point that leads underground.
4. Ensure shear valves are properly anchored and operational. The analysis of shear valve operations during the Gulf Coast storms suggests that it is a good idea to trip the shear valves by hand and disconnect the union above the shear valve that attaches the dispenser to the underground piping before the storm arrives.

5. Most tank installations in coastal or flood prone areas have dead men and anchor straps. It is also best to keep a modest amount of product in the tanks as ballast.
6. For tank systems that have impressed current cathodic protection, turn off the electrical power to these systems to help minimize electrical hazards around the system both during and after the storm.
7. Turn off power to the pumps, to the point of sale equipment, and to release detection systems.

There is no surefire method for protecting UST assets during a hurricane or tropical storm; however, these measures can lessen the damage. It is also important to have a plan ready now, before the storm is coming...so you won't have to look for this issue of the newsletter. Tank owners also need a plan for resuming operations after the storm. After the storm:

1. Visually check all equipment before trying to restore power to the system.
2. Check the wiring and junction boxes along with the rectifier for impressed current cathodic protection systems before restoring power.
3. Be alert to indications of electrical shorts or failed wiring as you attempt to restart the system.
4. Check for water in the fuel using a measuring stick and water finding paste before dispensing any fuel.
5. Conduct frequent checks of sumps, dispenser pans, and measure for

water in the tank several times during the first couple days after resuming operation.

6. Be alert for unusual operating conditions such as slow dispensing of fuel, frequent alarms, customer complaints or equipment shut downs.
7. As always, contact the UST Program at (803) 896-7957 with questions or concerns.

## FEDERAL INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H.R. 6) creates a new credit that permits taxpayers to claim a 30 percent credit, up to \$30,000, for the cost of installing clean-fuel vehicle refueling property to be used in a trade or business of the taxpayer or installed at the principal residence of the taxpayer. Clean fuels are defined as any fuel of which at least 85 percent of the volume consists of ethanol, natural gas, compressed natural gas, liquefied natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, or hydrogen and any mixture of diesel fuel and biodiesel containing at least 20 percent biodiesel.

The portion of the credit attributable to property of a character subject to an allowance for depreciation is treated as a portion of the general business credit; the remainder of the credit is allowable to the extent of the excess of the regular tax (reduced by certain other credits) over the alternative minimum tax for the taxable year. With regard to property used by a tax-exempt entity, the credit applies to the taxpayer who

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sold the infrastructure property to the tax-exempt entity.

The credit applies to property placed in service between December 31,

2005 and December 31, 2009. The law repeals code section 179A (the current deduction) after December 31, 2005.

For more information about E85 and flexible fuel vehicles, contact the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) at: (877)485-8595 or <http://www.E85Fuel.com>.

## Let's Get This Party Started: Permits to Operate

Denise Place, Database Management Coordinator

After new tanks are installed, the owner/operator must apply for a permit to operate those tanks. An approved permit to operate allows the system to operate (meaning accepting fuel deliveries and selling fuel) for 60 days without having the

official tank registration certificate. Included with this permit will be an invoice for prorated tank fees and a temporary certificate with a definite expiration date. When this expiration date has passed, the facility can no longer receive fuel deliveries until the

tank fees have been paid. Tank fees should be paid before the expiration date so that a new certificate can be issued before a new delivery is needed.

## So...We Are Supposed to READ Those Printouts?

Alison Hathcock, Permitting Coordinator

If an Automatic Tank Gauge (Veeder Root, Incon, etc) is their chosen method of leak detection, most tank owners know to keep either a printout or written log for each month for each tank. These records show that the tank is being properly monitored each month and should cover the most recent 12-month period.

During several inspections recently, I found that the owner had kept the tape for each month, but perhaps had never actually LOOKED at them. Successful release detection includes reviewing the results to be sure the tanks are actually passing either a 0.2 gph or 0.1 gph test each month. A monthly record that shows "leak test too short", "test invalid", "temperature change too great", or any result other

than a passing test IS NOT enough to satisfy the requirement to do release detection. Tank owners must check the records and report non-passing results to the UST Program at (803) 896-7957. The owners must also investigate to determine what caused the problem and then follow up to insure that a passing result is achieved or that the tank is taken out of service until the problem is resolved.

## SUPERB Financial Update

The Financial Section of the UST Program is composed of Laura Pace, Finance Manager, and two accountants. Robertha Dorsey holds one accounting position; Michelle Dennison is in the other accounting position.

<b>BALANCE OF THE SUPERB ACCOUNT</b>	
July 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006	
<b>Beginning balance</b>	<b>\$18,293,119.61</b>
Funds received	12,179,946.95
Funds paid out	10,726,755.71
Funds reserved for work being performed	18,459,903.80
Current balance of un-reserved funds	1,286,407.05

## UST ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD—SUMMER 2006

Our compliance rate is continuing to inch up (YAY!!!). Today, the probability of finding a facility "In Compliance" during an inspection is about 75 percent. Not so long ago (1998), the probability was around 30 percent. Thanks to all of you who are trying to protect our environment by operating and maintaining your UST systems correctly. This month, the UST inspectors nominated the following owners/facilities for the UST Environmental Excellence Award:

### **Large Retail (more than 10 tanks)**—Nominees in this category were:

Town And Country 66 (Curtis Oil) - Chesterfield  
Pantry 3245 (Pantry Inc) - Aiken  
ByPass Exxon (Odell Oil) - Abbeville

### **Small Retail (10 tanks or less)**—Nominees in this category are:

Boulevard Express - Bennettsville  
North Augusta Amoco DQ - North Augusta  
Express Mart - Myrtle Beach  
Old Post General Store - Gaffney

### **Non - Retail Category**—Nominees in this category are:

Lower Florence County Public Service  
Farrell Chevrolet - Spartanburg  
Gaffney Section Shed (SCDOT)  
Spartanburg Section Shed (SCDOT)  
Aiken County Law Enforcement

## WINNERS

**Farrell Chevrolet - Spartanburg** According to the inspector, the managers at this facility do it right all the time. They are very organized and courteous. They conduct additional precision testing as a check on their approved stand-alone tank and piping release detection method.

### **North Augusta Amoco DQ (Koger Walters Oil) - North Augusta**

This company operates but one facility in our state...flawlessly. They have a long history of compliance going back to our first compliance inspection there in 1996. Their company rep drives over from Georgia to accompany the inspector during inspections.

**Town and Country 66 (Curtis Oil) - Chesterfield** According to the nomination, this is one of the best operations in the area. The Curtises pay close attention to every aspect of UST operations and maintenance while employing best management practices.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU!



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and Environmental Control

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## The Drums... The Drums....

Susan Avery, UST Inspector and Art Shrader, Assessment Section

In the classic Saturday morning movies, the constant drumming in the distance eventually demanded the soldiers' attention. Similarly, tank owners and their rehabilitation contractors are being asked to deal with drums of soil and groundwater stored at the facility. Typically, the troublesome drums are left at a former gas station and the current owner feels the drums are affecting business. He/she wants the drums removed as soon as possible, and small wonder.

In Charleston, a rumor that several drums contained radioactive material resulted in an investigation by the local television station. Recently, building inspectors in Columbia and Walterboro issued citations to the current facility owner to direct removal of the drums from the site. The current facility owner became pretty upset since the drums were not his, but belonged to the former tank owner.

To avoid problems with drums left at a facility, several assessment contractors



put the drums of groundwater in the back of their trucks and remove them when they leave the site. Similarly, contractors are taking their impacted soil cuttings with them and consolidating drum contents for a monthly central pickup.

State and federal guidance require soil cuttings and groundwater impacted by petroleum chemicals to be properly managed to avoid leakage or spillage and also to be labeled to identify the drums' contents, the name of the generator of the impacted soil and water, and the date the impacted soil

or water was put in the container. All containers must be removed within 90 days.

Speaking of drums in relation to system maintenance...petroleum is not considered hazardous waste; however, benzene is, and petroleum contains benzene. Because of this, only one 55 gallon drum may be stored on site (for less than 30 days) without a permit. This limitation includes a drum of water/product mix from spill buckets, pump sumps, and dispenser sumps. To store more than one drum or to store a drum over 30 days, the owner/operator would need to contact the Bureau of Land and Waste Management's hazardous waste permitting section at (803) 896-4000 for a storage permit. Proper management and timely disposal of drums with impacted soil and groundwater can keep the current facility owner, city officials, and the natives from "drumming" on you in the future.

## It's Not Mine

Tanitra S. Marshall, Compliance Inspector

Did you recently sell an underground storage tank facility? Or, did you recently buy USTs from another owner? In either case, it is important to tell the UST Program about ownership changes. To help you keep us informed, we have a new Transfer of Ownership form.

The new form has a few key changes. The form still captures basic

information such as site id number, facility name and address, but also collects information about the new owner, the operator and the property owner. We ask for other pertinent information such as the owner's federal employee ID, South Carolina business license number, tax map ID number—all of which help us be sure we are dealing with the right person or company when we conduct tank business. The

form must be filled out in its entirety, notarized and returned to our office as soon as possible after a regulated UST changes hands. Because this document is used to validate the data we have for the facility, we need a signed, original document. For more information on the Transfer of Ownership process, call the Regulatory Assistance Section at (803) 896-7957.

## Water, Water Everywhere...

Leslie Yasinsac, Compliance Coordinator

South Carolina Underground Storage Tank Control Regulations state, "Metal piping that routinely contains regulated substances and is in contact with the ground must be ...protected from corrosion." Tank owners may assume that by installing fiberglass or flexible piping, or by putting their piping connections in sumps, they have provided corrosion protection for their piping. These are good steps to take to protect the system from corrosion, but are they enough?

Fiberglass and flexible piping systems typically include metal flex connectors

and metal piping at the submersible turbine pump (STP) and under dispensers. More than occasionally, water intrudes into the STP sump or dispenser pans. When this water contacts flex connectors or metal piping, it can cause rust.

Owners can take several steps to prevent water intrusion and to lessen the threat of corrosion in sumps and dispenser pans. As much as possible, owners should make sure that sumps are sealed. Keeping the gasket between the lid and wall of a submersible pump sump in place and clean is a great way to help keep the sump dry. If water still intrudes, it is probably

coming in around the piping holes. The penetration fittings should fit firmly around the piping or conduit and in the sump wall. What if you check all the pieces and parts and water still gets in?

Another solution is to start a maintenance program that includes checking each sump on a routine basis (weekly is good) and if water is present, pumping it out. The maintenance log would provide a record of how the owner provided protection for the piping. A note about that water: If it has some product in it, it needs to be disposed of as hazardous material. **If you have any questions, please call us at our new phone number (803) 896-7957 or e-mail us at [UST\\_Help@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:UST_Help@dhec.sc.gov).**

## The Tank Doctor...Mixed Media Release Detection

**QUESTION:** I have several hi-throughput facilities. At a couple of these facilities, the regular unleaded tanks are manifolded and are so active that the automatic tank gauge (atg) system is not getting enough quiet time to conduct a successful 0.2 gph test each month. The question is, "Can I put those tanks on a SIR program and still use the atg for the other tanks at the facility?"

**ANSWER:** Yes, you may use any third party certified release detection method on any tank so long as the method you choose is certified for the type of use you are planning (in this case, the SIR program must be

third party certified as capable of dealing with manifolded tanks with high throughput). The third party certification report describes the capabilities and limitations for a particular method.

In the abstract, it is even OK to switch back and forth between release detection methods from month to month ... **HOWEVER, any indications from a release detection method that a release may be ongoing or may have occurred must be noted, investigated, and reported.** This means that if the tank gauge reports a "fail" on a tank, this fail must be reported and investigated, even if there is SIR data that says the tank is okay.



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