

Checking Tank Levels

Checking tank levels is the most important part of monitoring your UST, followed closely by checking the equipment that checks your tank.

You can use an automatic tank gauge (ATG) to get your reading or you can use a stick and chart.

The ATG: Depending on the one you use an ATG gives you a gallonage reading at the push of a button, telling the operator gallons in tank, gallons the tank can hold and gallons you can really put in the tank, along with how many inches of water (Kansas Weights and Measures allows up to an inch in gasoline and diesel and only ¼ of an inch for ethanol). This information is electronically relayed from a probe in the tank to a box on the wall or even directly to your computer in an office thousands miles away. The ATG is a great piece of equipment. You don't have to stick the tank in the rain, cold and snow. Tank levels are just a button push away.

Having an ATG does not mean you do not have to stick your tank anymore; it means you should only have to stick to check your ATG. Best practice would be at least every other month. Why is it important to check your ATG?

- Confirm levels are accurate
- Confirm water check
- Diagnose probe issues

Making sure the three issues above are checked can save you time, money and headache. Example: The daily inventory is showing you are losing 100 gallons a day. A quick push of the button on the ATG and then sticking the tank would confirm the level is accurate or not. If the probe is

off it would prove the discrepancy. If there is a leak it would confirm it.

The Stick: According to Gregg Korte of Broyles, Inc. most tank sticks come in lengths of 12 to 16 feet, made of mahogany wood with a lacquer finish, a flat bottom, ¾ square and markings every 1/8 inch.

The chart should be for the size of tank you have and should have a gallonage reading for every 1/8 inch as required by the US EPA.

Whenever you stick your tank make sure the bottom of the stick is flat and the one inch mark is one inch from the bottom. If you have more than one size tank confirm the chart is for the tank you are reading.

2011 Tank Talks

Coming to a town near you!

What is Tank Talks? Tank Talk is an opportunity for AST & UST owners/operators to gather new information on storage tanks, hear presentations on compliance and participate in an open forum with representatives of agencies that regulate ASTs and USTs.

This year's talks will include speakers from Kansas Fire Marshal's Office with a presentation on fire rules at fueling facilities; Office of Weights and Measures with a presentation on E15 and alcohol in tanks; Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will share information about compliance and permitting. TMS will talk about American Fuel Institute findings on the effects of ultra low sulfur fuel on steel tanks and metal components of the fueling system and will also talk about the status of any EPA rule changes.

Literature from all presenters will be available for later review. Each meeting will conclude with a question and answer period.

Although these meetings do not take the place of the mandatory operator training, it is a good place to learn more about USTs and ASTs plus help make you a better operator. We hope you will join us at one of the eight locations for the 2011 Tank Talks. Refreshments will be provided.

To register on the web go to tankmgmt.net/tanktalk or call 800-530-5683 In Topeka call 785-233-1414

All meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m.

- 11/1/2011 Doubletree Hotel
10100 College Blvd.
Overland Park, KS
- 11/3/2011 Sumner Regional Med. Ctr., Wellington
1323 North 'A'
Wellington, KS
- 11/8/2011 Belleville Public Library
1327 19th Street
Belleville, KS
- 11/9/2011 Scott County Library (Scott City)
110 W. 8th St.
Scott City, KS
- 11/10/2011 WaKeeney Public Library
610 Russell Ave.
Wakeeney, KS
- 11/15/2011 Parsons Public Library
311 S. 17th Street
Parsons, KS
- 11/16/2011 McPherson Public Library
214 West Marlin St.
McPherson, KS
- 11/29/2011 Kansas Soybean Association
1000 SW Red Oaks Place
Topeka, KS

EPA Makes Reporting Violations Easy for Citizens *Regulatory Spotlight for May 2011*

The EPA has made it easier for anyone in the community to report a fuel release or other environmental violation. A new form on their website www.epa.gov/epahome/violations.htm allows citizens to make these reports anonymously online, triggering a red flag that will be passed to state agencies for immediate investigation

In describing this community outreach effort to create more citizen-partners in compliance, the EPA "seeks help by asking you to provide EPA with information about potentially harmful environmental activities in your communities."

The site additionally provides a list of incidences classified as "environmental crimes."

To view self-reporting requirements go to our website tankmgmt.net/selfreporting

Operator Training

Don't forget to register for operator training. Now is the time with plenty of classes available. To register go to our website tankmgmt.net. Click on Operator Training. The next classes offered are:

- 10/12/2011 Salina BiCentennial Center
800 The Midway Room 203
Salina, Kansas
- 10/13/2011 Fort Hays State University
600 Park Street - Trails Room 217
Hays, Kansas

WHAT IS TANK MANAGEMENT SERVICES?

TMS provides loss control and risk management assistance to UST owners who have third party liability insurance through Great American Custom as part of the Kansas Underground Storage Tank Liability Plan.

TMS can provide you with information on USTs -leak detection methods, and Federal and State regulations. Call TMS toll free at 800-530-5683 during normal Central Time Zone office hours (8-5). In the Topeka area, please call 233-1414. On the web go to tankmgmt.net. David Engelken is available to answer your questions. *This Service is free.*

To have the advisor E-mailed to you go to tankmgmt.net click on Advisor.