



ON-SITE FUEL TANK SAFETY

Flammable and combustible liquid fuel tanks can be found across Alberta; at your local gas station, hospital, or mechanic's shop. These tanks store a variety of chemicals, can be installed above-ground or underground, in all geographical areas and come in various shapes and sizes.

The Alberta Safety Codes Authority's (ASCA) Storage Tank Systems Management is a division of the Safety Codes Council. One of ASCA's duties is to oversee storage tank system compliance in unaccredited areas of the province. This compliance is verified through permitting and inspection, in accordance to nationally and provincially adopted safety codes.

UNDERSTANDING FUEL TANK INSTALLATION PERMITTING

Each municipality establishes zoning/land use bylaws within their jurisdiction. The municipality has authority to issue *Development Permits* through the Municipal Government Act.

Once the Development Permit is issued, ASCA may issue a *New Work Permit*. All installations must adhere to the Safety Code Act including the National Fire Code, Alberta Edition and the National Building Code, Alberta Edition.

Upon tank installation completion, the operator must obtain a valid *Annual Operating Permit* for any system with a capacity of 2,500 litres or greater. Renewal requires operators to submit annual operating reports. Insufficient reporting can lead to refusal, suspension, or cancellation of permitting.

Safety Codes Officers (SCO) are designated to ensure these tanks are compliant with the current building and fire codes. This compliance is established through information checks and regular site inspections. SCOs are experts in their discipline and are trained and certified by the Safety Codes Council.

FUEL TANK INSTALLATION

The National Fire Code, Alberta Edition along with the National Building Code, Alberta Edition, establish criteria which materials, products and assemblies must be met for fuel tank storage locations.

For example, modern underground systems must be comprised of tanks and piping of double-wall construction where tank and piping connections are required to be installed in liquid-tight sumps. These sumps along with the annular space around the tank must be electronically monitored to notify of any kind of leaks or liquid intrusion. These fuel tank systems are installed in a specified manner with specified materials and are closely inspected and tested prior to commissioning.

CODE DEVELOPMENT

There are many contributors to code construction. Industry experts, stakeholders, certified contractors and all levels of government contribute to the safety, health, and fire protection of on-site fuel tanks. There are many considerations taken into account when it comes to safety codes.

EXCEEDING THE CODES

Though codes are the minimum safety specifications that installers and operators must adhere to, exceeding these industry standards is encouraged. Technology is constantly evolving and so are the materials used in storage tank system construction. These advancements can be seen in tank manufacturing, sophisticated alarm systems, and tank placement options.

REPORTING SPILLS OR LEAKS

In case of leaks, spills, or hazardous incident, contact your local Fire Department. If you suspect imminent danger, call 9-1-1.

For more information on permits and inspections, please visit our website www.safetycodes.ab.ca.

