



Enjoy this late-summer issue of the STI/SPFA e-newsletter. Please take a few minutes to **provide comments on two industry Recommended Practices**, one of which is **STI RP 972**. Also, look ahead to educational programs and events scheduled through early November. For a complete list of 2009 events, review and print [STI's Industry Calendar](#).

The Editors of *Tank Talk* have added a short feature article (at bottom right) titled, "**Tank Talk's Spotlight on Safety**." In future issues you will receive news of safety resources for your library, be informed of tank use mishaps and learn about best practices that will assist you in managing or resolving safety and health matters. Please write vbartt@steeltank.com if you have a topic you would like *Tank Talk* to consider featuring in *Spotlight on Safety*.

Bad Gasoline Linked to Cracked Tank

A well-known, major oil company began processing claims for car repairs after a Hereford, MD gas station sold contaminated gas that brought many cars and lawn mowers to a halt.

Crews are getting permits to dig up and replace underground tanks at a Mount Carmel Road station.

Maryland Department of the Environment officials are considering fines against the company for failure to report the contaminated fuel.



Herb Meade, Administrator of the Oil Control Program for the MDE, said that inspectors found a 5-inch crack in the wall that separated the salt solution from the gasoline. Although only one tank leaked saline solution into gas, Meade indicated that both of the station's 20,000-gallon tanks will be removed.

In some cases, dry gas can be added and tanks topped off frequently to dilute the contaminated fuel, but cars react differently. One garage owner advised that some cars require new fuel pumps and others need to have fuel injectors replaced. All affected cars need the gas tanks drained.

USPS Adds FFVs to Its Large Fleet

The U.S. Postal Service announced recently that it will add 1,000 E85 flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) to its fleet as part of a one-for-one replacement of 6,500 aging vehicles at postal offices and facilities across the country. The remaining 5,500 vehicles will be replaced with gasoline/ electric hybrid vehicles and fuel-efficient, four-cylinder vehicles.

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UPCOMING FALL 2009 EVENTS

AUG 30 - SEPT 2
[AWWA Distribution Systems
Symposium and Exposition](#)
Reno, NV

SEPT 11
[NISTM AST Conference](#)
Houston, TX

SEPT 13 - 15
[2009 American Public Works
Congress and Exposition](#)
Columbus, OH

SEPT 14 - 17
[Pacific Oil Conference](#)
Reno, NV

SEPT 20 - 24
[NACE Fall Corrosion
Technology Week](#)
Houston, TX

SEPT 22
[STI/SPFA Steel Water Storage
Tank Seminar](#)
Indianapolis, IN

The USPS operates and maintains the largest civilian fleet of vehicles in the country with approximately 220,000 vehicles on the road.



Generator Base Tanks and NFPA 37

STI/SPFA has learned that there seems to be confusion about whether generator base tanks must follow NFPA requirements for meeting tank standards and requiring emergency vents. Wayne Geyer, P.E., Executive V.P. of STI/SPFA and Contributing Editor to *Tank Talk* emphasizes, "Generator tanks are no different from any other tank holding flammable or combustible liquids. If there is a pool fire surrounding the tank and any vapors that form within the tank cannot be released into the atmosphere, the tank will get over-pressurized and eventually explode, causing devastation."

2006 Edition of NFPA 37 sections that are in question include:

- **3.3.11 Tanks - 3.3.11.2 Fuel Tanks**
- **6.1 Design & Construction of Liquid Fuel Tanks**
- **6.3.3 Fuel Tanks Outdoors** (Aboveground or Underground) or Beneath a Structure. Fuel tanks located outside, either aboveground or underground, or beneath a structure, shall comply with the applicable provisions of NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code.
- **6.7 Vent Piping - 6.7.1.1**

NFPA 37 is available on the [NFPA website](#).

Should Petroleum Equipment Remain in Operation Forever?

Recently the California State Water Resources Control Board published a reprint of STI's 1999 *Tank Talk* article titled, *Should Petroleum Equipment Remain in Operation Forever?* in its newsletter *JUST UST NEWS*.

STI thought readers of *Tank Talk* would also be interested in the article which is available in *Tank Talk* Archives on the [STI website](#). A small portion of the content may no longer be timely, but much of it still resonates within the industry.

SEPT 22 - 24
[STI/SPFA Cathodic Protection Testing Course](#)
Frankfort, KY

SEPT 23 - 24
[STI/SPFA Fall Conference](#)
Houston, TX

SEPT 24 - 25
[MSCI Economic Summit](#)
Schaumburg, IL

SEPT 30
[IPECA AST Conference](#)
Indianapolis, IN

SEPT 28 - OCT 2
[STI/SPFA SP001 AST Inspector Training](#)
Chicago, IL

OCT 5 - 6
[API Safe Tank Entry Workshop](#)
Dallas, TX

OCT 7 - 8
[API 2009 Storage Tank Conference](#)
Dallas, TX

OCT 6 - 8
[STI/SPFA Cathodic Protection Testing Course](#)
Sheridan, WY

OCT 10 - 14
[WEFTEC 2009](#)
Orlando, FL

OCT 14 - 15
[STI/SPFA Cathodic Protection Testing Course](#)
Richmond, VA

OCT 20 - 23
[PEI at the NACS Show](#)
Las Vegas, NV

NOV 3
[STI/SPFA Steel Water Storage Tank Seminar](#)
Oakland, CA

NOV 5
[STI/SPFA Steel Water Storage Tank Seminar](#)
Santa Ana, CA

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Valero Using Wind Energy at TX Refinery

In June, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Valero Energy Corp. built a \$115 million wind farm to support its oil refinery and run it more economically. Valero Energy Corp. has the capacity to process more crude than any other U.S. refiner.



It recently installed 33 windmills to supply a refinery in Sunray, TX with green electricity to produce gasoline and diesel. The wind farm will pay for itself in about 10 years at current electricity prices. In the meantime, the company hopes to lock in fluctuating electricity prices by developing its own power source. This action could cut its monthly \$1.4 million electric bill. The installation was to be ready to operate at full capacity in August.

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Tank Talk is published periodically STI/SPFA. To receive a copy of this newsletter and to be placed on the mailing list to receive future issues, please call Vivian Bartt at 847/438-8265 ext. 233 or email your request to STI - vbartt@steeltank.com.

STI Requests Comments on RP972

STI is seeking comments on publication R972, Recommended Practice for the Addition of Supplemental Anodes to sti-P3® USTs.

This RP provides detailed testing information and recommendations for sti-P3® tanks that are not reading within the NACE guidelines for steel cathodic protection systems.



Please go to the www.steeltank.com website to **download the RP and access the Comment Form.**

Tank Talk's Spotlight on Safety

Methanol Handling Resources

[The Methanol Safe Handling Manual & Crisis Guidebook](#) and other information including, *Crisis Communications Handbook* and *Methanol Fact Sheets* are safety resources that will help the global methanol distribution chain increase awareness of the chemical and promote safe handling for workers, consumers and the environment.

Review & Comment on PEI Publication

PEI's Recommended Practices for the Installation of Marina Fueling Systems (PEI/RP1000) provides concrete, authoritative guidance on how to deal with the challenges of constructing safe, environmentally protective marina fueling facilities.



The draft document and Comment Form are available on the [PEI website](#).



Tank Use Mishaps

STI shares the misfortunes of others in its effort to educate the public and create greater awareness of the hazards inherent in the storage and use of petroleum and chemicals. Read the latest issue of [Tank Use Mishaps](#) here.

Subcommittee Applicants Sought

AST Inspection Standard, SP001, Appendix D

STI is seeking applicants for a subcommittee to develop an additional Appendix to its **AST Inspection Standard, SP001**, that will address ancillary AST motor vehicle fueling equipment.

Plans are for this subcommittee to hold teleconference meetings several times during the coming months. If qualified readers are interested in joining the subcommittee, they are encouraged to complete the [Application and Proposal Forms](#) available on

STI/SPFA website.

Please contact Dana Schmidt at dschmidt@steeltank.com or call 847/438-8265, ext. 246 to pose questions or learn more.