



# ENERGY E-TIPS

May 1, 2011

## EPA Regulations for Aboveground Fuel Tanks

Arkansas farm owners are preparing for the November 10, 2011 deadline to comply with the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Regulation. This regulation is part of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plan for Aboveground Fuel Tanks. This edition of Energy E-Tips will help farm owners understand the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations and guide them to comply with these regulations.



The main goal of the SPCC is to prevent oil from entering surface waters or nearby shorelines of the United States. The regulation addresses farms and businesses that store more than 1,320 gallons of oil or oil products in aboveground storage tanks/containers. "Oil" includes, but is not limited to:

- |               |                |                    |                  |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| • Waste oil   | • Kerosene     | • Lubricating oils | • Animal fats    |
| • Used oil    | • Gasoline     | • Naphtha          | • Biodiesel      |
| • Heating oil | • Crop oil     | • Mineral spirits  | blends           |
| • Diesel fuel | • Adjuvant oil | • Vegetable oils   | • Synthetic oils |

SPCC regulation includes appropriate secondary containment and/or diversionary structures, security measures, inspections and record keeping, and employee training.

### **Does my farm or my business need to comply with the SPCC regulations?**

To determine if your farm or business must comply with these regulations, you should add all the storage containers (tanks, drums, totes, etc.) that can hold 55 gallons or more, even if empty. If the total exceeds 1,320 gallons; i.e., 1,321 gallons, you are required to observe this regulation at your facility. For example, a farmer has two 55 gallon drums of oil in the shop, a 500-gallon diesel tank, a 500-gallon gasoline tank, and an empty 500-gallon tank for storing off-road diesel during the planting and harvest seasons. Therefore, the total capacity is 1,610 gallons, which exceeds the 1,320-gallon threshold, so this farmer must comply with the federal SPCC requirements.

### **What should I do if my farm is covered by SPCC?**

The SPCC program requires you to prepare and implement an SPCC Plan. If you already have a Plan, maintain it. If you do not have a Plan, you should prepare and implement one. Many farmers will need to have their Plan certified by a Professional Engineer (PE). If your farm has storage capacity of more than 10,000 gallons, or has had an oil spill, you may need to prepare an SPCC Plan certified by a PE. If you decide to use certain alternate measures allowed by the SPCC Rule, you will need a PE.

However, you may be eligible to self-certify your amended Plan — if your farm has a total oil storage capacity between 1,320 and 10,000 gallons in aboveground containers, and the farm has a good spill history (as described in the SPCC rule). Therefore, you may prepare and self-certify your own Plan.

If you are eligible to self-certify your Plan, and no aboveground container at your farm is greater than 5,000 gallons in capacity, then you may use the Plan template that is available to download from EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/oem/content/spcc/tier1temp.htm>.

### **What information will I need to prepare an SPCC Plan for my farm?**

- A list of the oil containers at the farm by parcel (including their contents and location);
- A brief description of the procedures that you will use to prevent oil spills. For example, the steps that you use to transfer fuel from a storage tank to your farm vehicles that prevent fuel spill;
- A brief description of the measures you installed to prevent oil from reaching water;
- A brief description of the measures you will use to contain and cleanup an oil spill to water; and
- A list of emergency contacts and first responders.

### **What spill-prevention measures should I implement and include in my SPCC Plan?**

- Use containers suitable for the oil stored. Use a container designed for flammable liquids to store gasoline;
- Identify contractors or other local personnel who can help you clean up an oil spill;
- Provide overfill prevention for your oil storage containers. You could use a high-level alarm, or audible vent, or establish a procedure to fill containers;
- Provide effective, sized secondary containment for bulk storage containers, such as a dike or a remote impoundment. The containment must be able to hold the full capacity of the container plus possible rainfall. The dike may be constructed of earth or concrete. A double-walled tank may also suffice;
- Provide effective, general secondary containment to address the most likely discharge where you transfer oil to and from containers and for mobile refuelers, such as fuel nurse tanks mounted on trucks or trailers. For example, you may use sorbent materials, drip pans or curbing for these areas;
- Periodically inspect and test pipes and containers. You should visually inspect aboveground pipes and inspect aboveground containers following industry standards. You must test the buried pipes for leak when they are installed or repaired. EPA recommends you keep a written record of your inspections.

### **How and when do I maintain my SPCC Plan?**

Amend and update your SPCC Plan when changes are made to the farm; for example, if you add new storage containers (e.g. tanks) that are 55 gallons or larger, or if you purchase or lease parcels with containers that are 55 gallons or larger. You must review your Plan every five years to make sure it includes any changes in oil storage at your farm.

### **What should I do if I have an oil spill?**

- Activate your SPCC Plan procedures to prevent the oil spill from reaching a creek or river;
- Implement spill cleanup and mitigation procedures outlined in your Plan;
- Notify the National Response Center (NRC) at 800-424-8802 if you have an oil discharge to waters or adjoining shorelines;

- If the amount of oil spilled to water is more than 42 gallons on two different occasions within a 12-month period or more than 1,000 gallons to water in a single spill event, then notify your EPA Regional office in writing.

**For More Information read the SPCC rule and additional resources:**

- <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/spcc>
- Tanks and Containment / Underground Storage Tanks: <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/ttan.html>
- Aboveground Petroleum Tanks: A Pictorial Guide: <http://www.ppp.purdue.edu/Pubs/PPP-73.pdf>
- SPCC Rule: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm>
- SPCC Information for Farmers: <http://www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/oil/spcc/spccfarms.pdf>

Samy Sadaka [ssadaka@uaex.edu](mailto:ssadaka@uaex.edu)

Rachel Lipsey [rlipsey@uaex.edu](mailto:rlipsey@uaex.edu)

University of Arkansas, United States Department of Agriculture and County Governments Cooperating.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.