These best management practices are recommended for tank storage systems that existing facilities maintain on their sites. The following practices should complement any special requirements for these systems, such as any additional restrictions imposed by the Fire Marshall’s Office.

1. Install an overfill protection system on the storage tank to minimize the risk of spilling liquids during transfer and loading. Install guards around the tanks and piping to prevent damage from forklifts or vehicles.

2. For permanently installed tank storage systems, use curbs or dikes to contain spills and leaks. The curbing should be of adequate height to contain a volume equal to the volume of the largest single storage tank plus rainfall if the storage area is uncovered. A good approximation of the needed volume would be 110% of the largest storage tank, but additional volume may be required depending on the quantity of rainfall reaching the site.

3. The floor area enclosed by the curbing needs to be covered with an impervious surface and sealed to prevent spills from contaminating groundwater. The paved floor should be sloped to a lined sump for the collection of small spills. Weekly cleaning of the sump is needed to minimize the contamination of stormwater.

4. The line coupling area should have containment as well. Ideally, the coupling area will have a separate containment area to prevent contamination of stormwater in the tank farm containment area.

5. If no contaminants are present, collect and remove or discharge accumulated rainfall from the curbed area frequently during the wet season.

6. Install and maintain an oil/water separator for treating stormwater that is discharged from a petroleum tank farm for removal of contaminants. Invoke tank farm policy (see back).

7. Train employees in operating procedures and label valves and piping to reduce human error.


* Facilities subject to new development standards as identified in the City’s Stormwater Management Manual may have additional or different requirements than those listed on this BMP. For information please contact the City’s Development Assistance staff at 503-823-7122.

continued
Tank Farm Discharge Policy

The policy for regulating discharges from tank farms to the storm or sanitary system arises from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality general permit system and the City of Portland’s responsibility for the content of any stormwater.

Definitions:

1. Process Wastewater
   - Water that becomes polluted after coming into contact with an industrial process.
   - Includes rainwater from all coupling areas where connections are made between holding tanks and transport vehicles or other holding tanks.
   - Does NOT include uncontaminated rainwater or water used as a cooling agent that does not come in contact with pollutants (non-contact cooling water).

2. Tank Farm
   - Holding tanks used to store materials.

3. Containment Area
   - An area designed to contain spillage from holding tanks.

Requirements:

1. The only discharges allowed into the storm sewer will be uncontaminated rainwater and non-contact cooling water.
2. Containment areas shall have sub-berm areas—either in front of or inside the main bermed areas—where tank-to-vehicle or tank-to-tank connections are made, or pump pads.
3. The material in the sub-berm of the containment area shall be treated as any other batch or pretreatment permit process wastewater discharge to the sanitary sewer.
   - Meets all requirements for batch discharge.
   - Follows all procedures for batch discharge.