



Above Ground Fuel Tanks: Guideline.

Proper Zoning is required. Contact Development Services Division (361-826-3240) for zoning information. Note: Light Industrial zoning is required to have a U.L. 2085 tank.

A permanent above ground fuel tank is required to have the Zoning Board's approval. A "Special Use Exemption" should be filed. Contact Andrew Dimas at 826-3584 to obtain information.

Based on International Fire Code 2015

105.6.17 Amendment: "Flammable and Combustible Liquids" An operational permit is required to dispense motor fuels into vehicles.

105.7.8 Amendment: "Flammable and combustible liquids."

A construction Permit is required:

1. To install, alter, remove, abandon, or otherwise dispose of a flammable or combustible liquid tank.
2. The application for the permit to install an above ground flammable or combustible liquid tank shall be accompanied by the following:
 1. Manufacturer's installation requirements.
 2. Listing for tank.
 3. Site plan showing address and proposed installation location.

312.2 Posts.

Guard post shall comply with all the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet deep in a concrete footing of not less than 1 1/2- inch diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet from the protected object.

2303.2 Emergency disconnect switches.

An approved, clearly identified and readily accessible emergency disconnect switch shall be provided at an approved location, to stop the transfer of fuel to the fuel dispensers in the event of a fuel spill or other emergency. An emergency disconnect switch for exterior fuel dispensers shall be located within 100 feet of, but not less than 20 feet from, the fuel dispensers. Such devices shall be distinctly labeled as: EMERGENCY FUEL SHUTOFF. Signs shall be provided in approved location.

2304.3.5 Emergency procedures.

An approved emergency procedures sign, in addition to the signs required by Section 2205.6, shall be posted in a conspicuous location and shall read: IN CASE OF FIRE, SPILL OR RELEASE:

1. USE EMERGENCY PUMP SHUTOFF.
2. REPORT THE ACCIDENT:
3. FIRE DEPARTMENT TELEPHONE NO. _____ FACILITY ADDRESS _____

2205.5 Fire Extinguishers.

Approved portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 with a minimum rating of 2A-20B:C shall be provided and located such that an extinguisher is not more than 75 feet from pumps, dispensers, or storage tank fill-pipe openings.

2305.6 Warning signs.

Warning signs shall be conspicuously posted within sight of each dispenser in the fuel-dispensing area and shall state the following:

1. It is illegal and dangerous to fill unapproved containers with fuel.
2. Smoking is prohibited.
3. The engine shall be shut off during the refueling process.
4. Portable containers shall not be filled while located inside the trunk, passenger compartment, or truck bed of a vehicle.

Hazardous Materials Classification: NFPA 704 must be met.

2306.2.3 Amendment: "Above-ground tanks located outside, above grade."

Above-ground tanks shall not be used for the storage of Class I, II or IIIA liquid fuels except as provided by this section.

1. Above-ground tanks used for outside, above-grade storage of Class I liquids shall be listed and labeled as protected above-ground tanks and in accordance with UL2085 and shall be in accordance with Chapter 57.
2. Aboveground tanks used for above-grade storage of Class II or IIIA liquids shall be listed and labeled as protected above-ground tanks in accordance with UL2085 and shall be installed in accordance with Ch. 57. Tank locations shall only be located within a light or heavy industrial zoning district unless approval is given by the ZBA with a special use exemption and the fire code official. Such tanks shall be located in accordance with Table 2306.2.3
3. Tanks containing fuels may not exceed 10,000 gallons in individual capacity or 30,000 gallons in aggregate capacity. Installations with the maximum allowable aggregate shall be separated from other installations by not less than 100 feet
4. Tanks located on farms construction projects, well drilling, bulk transfer plants or operations, gravel pits or earth moving projects are subject to regulations in accordance with Section 5706 “special operations”
5. Refer to chart below for distance separation from property lines and buildings.

**TABLE 2306.2.3
MINIMUM SEPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ABOVE-GROUND TANKS**

CLASS OF LIQUID AND TANK TYPE	INDIVIDUAL TANK CAPACITY (gallons)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST IMPORTANT BUILDING ON SAME PROPERTY (foot)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST FUEL DISPENSER (foot)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM LOT LINE THAT IS OR CAN BE BUILT UPON, INCLUDING THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF A PUBLIC WAY (foot)	MINIMUM DISTANCE FROM NEAREST SIDE OF ANY PUBLIC WAY (foot)	MINIMUM DISTANCE BETWEEN TANKS (foot)
Class I protected above-ground tanks	Less than or equal to 6,000	5	25*	15	5	3
	Greater than 6,000	15	25*	25	15	3
Class II and III protected above-ground tanks	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I*	Same as Class I	Same as Class I	Same as Class I
Tanks in vaults	0-20,000	0*	0	0*	0	Separate compartment required for each tank
Other tanks	All	50	50	100	50	3

5704.2.12.1 Prior to being placed into service, tanks shall be tested in accordance with Section 21.5 of NFPA 30. If the tank is new or contains no flammable/combustible liquids or residue (has been washed clean with no LEL’s present) it may be pressure tested with compressed air. Otherwise, the tank is to be pressure tested with an inert gas such as nitrogen.

5704.2.7.3.3 Vent pipe outlets.

Vent pipe outlets for tanks storing Class I, II or IIIA liquids shall be located such that the vapors are released at a safe point outside of buildings and not less than 12 feet above the adjacent ground level. Vapors shall be discharged upward or horizontally away from adjacent walls to assist in vapor dispersion. Vent outlets shall be located such that flammable vapors will not be trapped by eaves or

other obstructions and shall be at least 5 feet from building openings or lot lines of properties that can be built upon.

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