

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

## Coffee Break Training

### Topic: Physical Protection for Aboveground Refueling Tanks

**Learning objective:** The student shall be able to specify the minimum specifications for motor vehicle impact protection for aboveground refueling tanks.

Many refueling installations are installing aboveground flammable and combustible storage tanks to avoid complicated and costly environmental regulations.

These installations require a number of fire protection and safety specifications to prevent unwanted spills, leaks, explosions, or fires.

One requirement specifies the following guard posts for minimum protection from motor vehicle impact. The guard posts must be:

- constructed of minimum 4-inch diameter, concrete-filled steel pipe;
- spaced not more than 4 feet apart, so a motor vehicle will not fit between them;
- set in concrete in a minimum 15-inch diameter hole at least 3 feet deep;
- set with the tops at least 3 feet above the ground; and
- set at least 3 feet from the tank.



For more information, refer to the *International Fire Code*<sup>®</sup>, Chapter 3; and *NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code*<sup>™</sup>, Chapter 42.