

U.S. Fire Administration / National Fire Academy

*Coffee Break Training***Topic: Construction Site Flammable and Combustible Liquids**

Learning objective: The student shall be able to identify safety considerations for flammable and combustible liquid storage and dispensing at construction sites.

Development projects often require substantial earth moving or excavating operations related to site features and building construction. To keep the equipment moving and profitable, contractors may want to have fuel storage and dispensing on the project site.

The fire code requirements for Class I and II flammable and combustible liquids at construction sites are slightly different from permanent installations due to the temporary nature and limited exposures of these special operations.

In general, temporary aboveground tanks for Class I and II liquids may not exceed 10,000 gallons (37 854 L). Outdoor tanks must be:

- Kept outside and at least 50 feet (15,240 mm) from buildings and combustible storage.
- Kept free from weeds, waste products, and extraneous combustible materials.
- Protected from open flames and smoking.
- Labeled with the name of the product (i.e., gasoline or diesel) and marked with the words: FLAMMABLE—KEEP FIRE AND FLAME AWAY AND KEEP 50 FEET FROM BUILDINGS.
- Provided with locked fill openings that are separate from vent openings.
- Provided with normal and emergency venting.
- Provided with drainage control or dikes to prevent liquid spills from migrating to other areas.
- Stabilized to prevent rolling or movement if they are equipped with top openings only (such as vents, fill pipes, and dispensers).



Dispensing from these tanks may be done by pumps or gravity as permitted by the fire code official. Tanks used in gravity-dispensing operations must have a heat-responsive automatic self-closing valve.

For additional information, refer to NFPA 1, *Uniform Fire Code*[™]; Chapter 14, *International Fire Code*[®], Chapter 34; or NFPA 30A, *Code for Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages*, Chapter 13.

This flammable liquid storage and dispensing operation should be at least 50 feet (15,240 mm) from buildings and combustible storage, and provided with warning signs.