



# Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

## Hazardous Materials: Prohibited Storage Districts

No. FP-2009-6 February 10, 2009

**Learning Objective:** The student shall be able to explain how hazardous material storage may be prohibited in some or all parts of the community.

The International Fire Code® includes language that authorizes a jurisdiction to prohibit the storage of some hazardous materials in some or all parts of the community.

The authority occurs in four places in the International Fire Code®: regulations for cryogenic fluids in stationary containers, Class I and II liquids in above ground tanks, inside buildings or outdoors, and the storage of liquefied petroleum gas.

If read out of context, the language may be confusing:

“The storage of [these hazardous materials] is prohibited within the limits established by law as the limits of districts in which such storage is prohibited.” [Emphasis added.]



These above ground storage tanks could be prohibited by the code in specific zones.

Section 3 of the Sample Ordinance for Adoption in the frontispiece of the International Fire Code® provides more clarity. These “limits” are specific geographic areas that the jurisdiction adopting the code can describe. Often this is accomplished through the jurisdiction’s zoning designations.

For example, if a jurisdiction wished to ban Class I and II liquids in above ground tanks in Residential, Commercial, Office and Institution, Special Use, or Historic zones\*, it could name those specific zones in the adopting ordinance and no one could legally install above ground tanks in them. This is a simple way to regulate the storage of these hazardous materials without having to conduct a lot of code research. A jurisdiction could list all of its zoning designations if it wanted to ban these items throughout the entire community.

Any organization considering this approach to hazardous material control should review the draft adopting ordinance carefully with the agency’s legislative body and legal counsel.

For additional information, refer to the International Fire Code® frontispiece, and Chapters 32, 34, and 38.

\* Jurisdictions that employ zoning may have their own unique zone designations. These names are illustrative only.



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