



EPA SPCC Inspection Sweep

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- Located in Roseland, Louisiana (80 miles north of New Orleans)
- Manufactures industrial, commercial, automotive, and private-label petroleum and lubricant products
- 265 ASTs (largest 504,000-gallon capacity)*
- Aggregate storage capacity of 11 million gallons
- Has a Tier I SPCC Plan*
- Does not have a Facility Response Plan (FRP)*

* Northshore Riverwatch



August 22, 2025

The Aftermath

- No deaths or injuries
- Mandatory evacuation (1-mile radius)
 - Affected 800-1000 residents
- Fire burned for nearly 2 weeks
- Secondary explosion on September 2nd
- Oily soot rained down across Tangipahoa Parish
- Official cause is yet to be determined
 - Smitty's alleges a defective thermal fluid heater and negligent installation caused explosion





Environmental Impacts

- Millions of gallons of oil and oily fluids discharged
- Tangipahoa River (Louisiana Scenic Stream)
- Effects observed up to 47 miles downstream
- PFAS-containing fire foam used to fight fire
- 11.7 million gallons of waste recovered from ponds and Tangipahoa River (EPA)



EPA Inspection

- 200 active or historical chemical spills
- 250 damaged, corroded, or leaking containers
- 300 unlabeled or unidentified substance containers
- Poorly maintained secondary containment
- Actively leaking tank valves
- Thick grease layer on floors and equipment
- Open waste drums
- Saturated cardboard being used as walkways



Legal Consequences

- EPA and State of Louisiana have filed a federal lawsuit seeking over \$1 billion in penalties for repeated environmental and Clean Water Act violations
- EPA Criminal Investigation Division (CID), FBI, and Louisiana State Police executed federal search warrant on November 18, 2025
- Signals ongoing criminal investigation

TARGETS

- Bulk Petroleum Plants
- Fuel Terminals
- Independent Petroleum Marketers
- Industrial Sites with Large ASTs

COMPONENTS

- Announced and Unannounced Inspections
- Document Requests
 - Plans, Review Logs, Spill Records, Inspection and Training Documentation
- Accelerated Civil Penalties

Regulatory Alert

EPA Region 6 Initiates SPCC Enforcement Sweep

EMA Regulatory Counsel Contacts: [Jeff Leiter](#) and [Jorge Roman](#)

Thursday, April 30, 2026 – EMA has learned that EPA Region 6 has launched a coordinated enforcement sweep targeting Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) compliance at oil-handling facilities across Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The initiative involves announced and unannounced inspections, document requests under the Clean Water Act, and accelerated civil penalty referrals. Petroleum marketers with facilities subject to SPCC anywhere in EPA Region 6 should expect heightened scrutiny in the coming weeks and months.

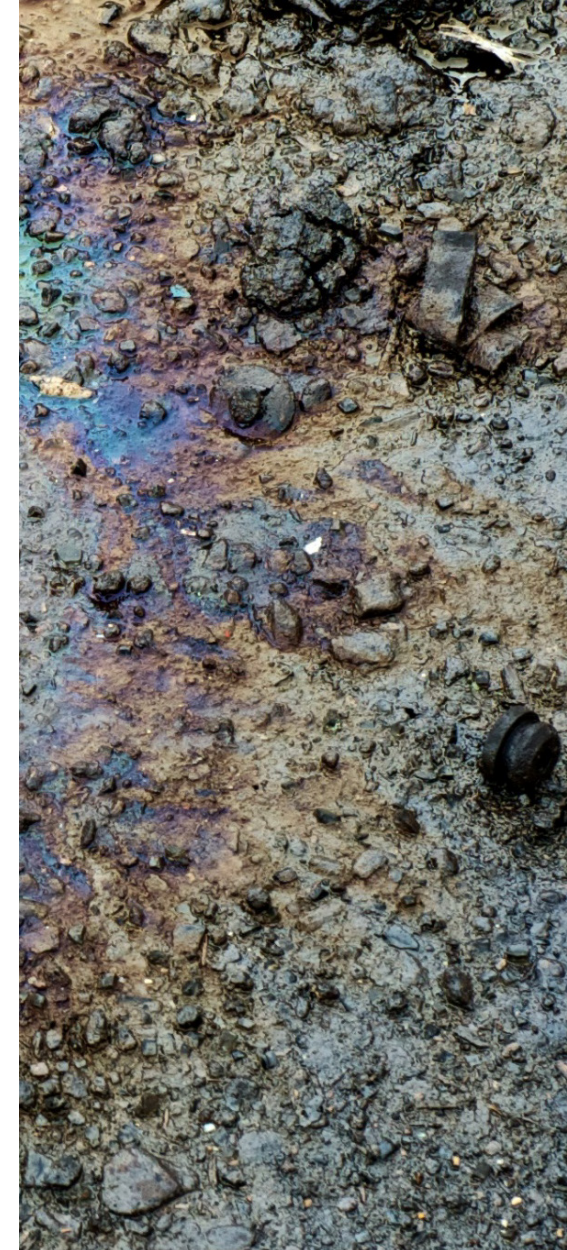
Background

The sweep is understood to be EPA's response to public criticism following the August 2025 explosion and fire at the Smitty's Supply facility in Roseland, Louisiana. That incident, which prompted evacuations and caused significant surface-water impacts, has focused attention on perceived gaps in federal oversight of bulk petroleum storage operations. Subsequent EPA RCRA findings, DOJ civil litigation, and an active EPA/FBI criminal investigation have made the Smitty's matter a touchstone for more aggressive SPCC enforcement. Although Smitty's is a lubricant blender, EPA Region 6 inspectors are expected to apply the same heightened posture to *all* above-ground oil storage facilities within the Region—including fuel terminals and bulk plants to demonstrate that agency oversight is, in fact, robust.

Why This Matters to EMA Marketers

Petroleum marketers operate precisely the type of facilities EPA Region 6 is prioritizing: bulk fuel terminals, jobber bulk plants, loading and unloading racks, transport-truck staging areas, and commercial fueling locations with above-ground storage. SPCC penalties are assessed per day, per violation, with statutory maximums currently exceeding \$66,000 per day. EPA inspectors will be looking for a current SPCC Plan, Professional Engineer (PE) certification where required, secondary containment sufficient to hold the largest single container plus precipitation, integrity testing records, employee training documentation, loading/unloading area protections, and timely Plan amendments following facility changes.

Members should also be aware that an SPCC inspection can readily expand into adjacent regulatory areas—UST compliance, Facility Response Plan obligations, EPCRA Tier II reporting, and stormwater permitting—particularly if inspectors observe conditions inconsistent with the facility's current paperwork.



Do you need an SPCC Plan?



Aggregate aboveground oil storage exceeds 1,320 gallons

Includes all containers 55 gallons or larger
Includes oil-filled operational equipment



Aggregate underground oil storage exceeds 42,000 gallons

Oil defined as:

Fats, oils, or greases of animal, fish, or marine mammal origin

Vegetable oils, including oils from seeds, nuts, fruits, or kernels

Petroleum oils and greases

Fuel oil

Synthetic oil

Mineral oil

Oily wastes

Types of SPCC Plans

Tier I Plan

- Aggregate storage less than 10,000 gallons
- No single tank over 5,000 gallons
- EPA template available
- Does not require PE certification

Tier II Plan

- Aggregate storage less than 10,000 gallons
- One tank over 5,000 gallons
- EPA template available
- Does not require PE certification

Tier III Plan

- Aggregate storage greater than 10,000 gallons
- Fully customized plan
- Requires PE certification

Keep SPCC Plan Current

ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS

- Change in name or contact information
 - Change in individuals responsible for implementing Plan
 - Change in spill response contractor
- Do not require PE certification

Plan must be reviewed and recertified every 5 years at a minimum

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

- Commissioning / decommissioning containers
 - Replacement or movement of containers or piping systems
 - Change in oil product or service
 - Changes to secondary containment
 - Revisions to spill prevention, fueling operations, or testing / inspection procedures
- Plan must be updated within 6 months of change
 - Requires PE certification

Make Sure Plan is Complete



ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

- Management Approval
- Regulation Cross-Reference
- Designate Facility Response Coordinator
- Spill Response Contractor



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Current Site Map and Tank Inventory
- Secondary Containment
- Loading / Unloading Procedures
- Discharge Prevention Measures
- Spill Response Procedures
- Reasonable Equipment Failure Scenarios
- Deviations from SPCC Requirements



Site Map

- Physical layout of facility
- Location and contents of oil storage containers
- Transfer stations and connecting pipes
- Structural controls
- Facility drainage and surface waters



Oil Storage Inventory

- Types of Containers
- Contents
- Capacity
- Construction
- Secondary Containment
- Reasonable Equipment Failure Scenarios
 - Direction of flow
 - Rate and total volume of discharge

Secondary Containment



Must contain volume of largest tank



Stormwater accumulation



Method to remove stormwater



Double-walled tanks



General secondary containment

Spill Control and Countermeasures

- Loading / unloading procedures
- Drainage controls
- Discharge discovery and response procedures
- Disposal of recovered and contaminated materials
- Notification procedures
 - Facility Response Coordinator
 - National Response Center
 - Federal, state, and local agencies



Inspections

Category 1 = Spill Control and CRDM*

Category 2 = Spill Control but no CRDM*

Category 3 = No Spill Control

P = Periodic Inspection

E – External Inspection

L = Leak Detection

I = Internal Inspection

*Continuous Release
Detection Method

TABLE 5.5 TABLE OF INSPECTION SCHEDULES

AST Type and Capacity in U.S. gallons (liters)		Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Shop-Fabricated ASTs	0 – 1100 (0-4164 liters)	P	P	P, E&L(10)
	1101 - 5,000 (4168-18,927 liters)	P	P, E&L(10)	[P, E&L(5), I(10)] or [P, L(2), E(5)]
	5,001 - 30,000 (18,931-113,562 liters)	P, E(20)	[P, E(10), I(20)] or [P, E(5), L(10)]	[P, E&L(5), I(10)] or [P, L(1), E(5)]
	30,001 - 75,000 (113,566-283,906 liters)	P, E(20)	P, E&L(5), I(15)	P, E&L(5), I(10)
Portable Containers		P	P	P**

** Owner shall either discontinue use of portable container for storage or have the portable container DOT (Department of Transportation) tested and recertified per the following schedule (refer to Section 9.0):

Plastic portable container - every 7 years

Steel portable container - every 12 years

Stainless Steel portable container - every 17 years

STI SP001 Monthly Inspection Checklist

General Inspection Information:

Inspection Date: _____ Prior Inspection Date: _____ Retain until date: _____

Inspector Name (print): _____ Title: _____

Inspector's Signature _____

Tank(s) inspected ID _____

Regulatory facility name and ID number (if applicable) _____

- This checklist is intended as a model. Locally developed checklists are acceptable as long as they are equivalent and meet all applicable inspection checklist items. Inspections of multiple tanks may be captured on one form as long as the tanks are substantially the same.
- For equipment not included in this Standard, follow the manufacturer recommended inspection/testing schedules and procedures.
- The periodic AST inspection is intended for monitoring the external AST condition and its containment structure. This visual inspection does not require a Certified Inspector shall be performed by an owner's inspector per paragraph 4.1.2 of the standard.
- Upon discovery of water in the primary tank, secondary containment area, interstice, or spill container, remove promptly or take other corrective action. Inspect the liquid for regulated products or other contaminants and dispose of properly.
- * designates an item in a non-conformance status. This indicates that action is required to address a problem. Note that some non-conforming items important to tank or containment integrity require evaluation by an engineer experienced in AST design, a Certified Inspector, or a tank manufacturer who will determine the corrective action. Note the non-conformance and corresponding corrective action in the comment section.
- If the inspection finds the integrity of the spill control system and/or the CRDM, such as items 13 and 14, is compromised the tank category and inspection time table should be re-evaluated by someone knowledgeable about the SP001 standard.
- Retain the completed checklists for at least 36 months.
- **After severe weather (snow, ice, wind storms) or maintenance (such as coating) that could affect the operation of critical components (normal and emergency valves), an inspection of these components is required as soon as the equipment is safely accessible after the event.**

ITEM		STATUS	COMMENTS / DATE CORRECTED
Tank and Piping			
1	Is tank exterior (roof, shell, heads, bottom, connections, fittings, valves, etc.) free of visible leaks? Note: If "No", identify tank and describe leak and actions taken.	☐ Yes ☐ No*	
2	Is the tank liquid level gauge legible and in good working condition?	☐ Yes ☐ No* ☐ N/A	
3	Is the area around the tank (concrete surfaces, ground, containment, etc.) free of visible signs of leakage?	☐ Yes ☐ No*	

Periodic Inspections

- Flexible frequency – typically monthly
- Does not require specialized training
- Check for obvious signs of spills or leaks
- Check for water in interstitial space or secondary containment
- Document findings and corrective actions

External / Internal Inspections & Leak Testing

- Requires certified inspector
- Intervals of 5, 10, or 20 years
- Check for corrosion
- Non-destructive testing



What is Nondestructive Testing?

- Nondestructive testing (NDT) is a wide group of analysis techniques used in science and industry to evaluate the properties of a material, component or system without causing damage.
- Because NDT does not permanently alter the article being inspected, it is a highly valuable technique that can save both money and time in product evaluation, troubleshooting, and research. Nondestructive testing is commonly used for commercial and industrial applications.



Conventional NDT Methods

- Visual Testing (VT)
- Penetrant Testing (PT)
- Magnetic Particle Testing (MT)
- Radiography Testing (RT)
- Ultrasonic Testing (UT)
- Positive Material Identification (PMI)
- Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)

Advanced NDT Methods

- Remote Visual Inspection (RVI)
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) (Drones)
- Digital & Computed Radiography (DR) & (CR)
- Automated Ultrasonic Testing (AUT)
- Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing (PAUT)
- Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

Other Requirements

- Personnel Training
- Security
- Evaluate Substantial Harm Potential



Substantial Harm Criteria

- Oil storage capacity of 42,000 gallons or more and conduct over-water transfers
 - Oil storage capacity over one million gallons
- AND:
- Could cause injury to fish and wildlife and sensitive environments, OR
 - Threaten public drinking water intake, OR
 - Reportable oil discharge of 10,000 gallons or more in last 5 years



Facility Response Plan

Emergency Response Action Plan

Hazard & Scenario Analysis

Drills and Training

Coordination with Emergency Responders

Reviewed by EPA



Resources

40 CFR 112

EPA SPCC Inspectors Guidance



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