



Coffee Break Training - Fire Protection Series

Hazardous Materials: Tank Vehicle Parking

No. FP-2011-41 October 11, 2011

Learning Objective: The student shall be able to list the fire code requirements for unattended tank vehicle parking.

Unattended fuel tankers like these 9,200-gallon (35,000-L) gasoline trucks create an inviting target for vandals or terrorists who might want to cause mischief or use them as improvised incendiary devices.

To minimize the threat, the fire codes provide requirements for parking these trucks. Most importantly, tank vehicles should not be left unattended at any time on any residential street, or within 500 ft (150 m) of any residential area, apartment or hotel complex, educational facility, hospital, or care facility. Tank vehicles should not be unattended in any location where the fire chief determines that an extreme life hazard exists.



These unattended gasoline tank vehicles create a hazardous condition due to the nature of their contents and the lack of security. *Photo courtesy Keith Heckler, Rockville Fire Department, MD.*

An exception to this rule allows tank vehicles to be parked or left unattended while the operator is seeking help following an accident, breakdown, or other emergency.

Tank vehicles should not be left unattended on public streets, highways, avenues, or alleys unless they are involved in permitted loading or unloading operations, or the driver is stopping for a meal and the vehicle is parked in a well-lighted area.

When tank vehicles have to be parked for more than an hour, they should be located off of public streets, highways, avenues, or alleys and inside a bulk plant at least 25 feet (7,620 mm) from the nearest lot line or within a building specifically approved for tanker parking. If not parked at a bulk plant, tank vehicles should be parked at least 50 ft (15,240 mm) from buildings other than those that have been approved for parking or servicing them.

Tank vehicles should not be parked or garaged in a building of any kind that has not been approved by the fire code official.

For additional information, refer to *International Fire Code*, Chapter 36, and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, *Uniform Fire Code*[™], Chapter 42.



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