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Optimization of Fluid Management in Aboveground Storage Tanks

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Introduction

- Mike Murray, ATEK Access Technologies
 - Director of TankScan Sales
 - Four years in the field with tank users waste oil generators and collectors, lube and fuel distributors, oil fields, and chemical storage
 - Formerly managed fuel cooperative with bulk storage sites
 - Over 20 years of experience in automotive repair business, used oil generator



- There are over 18 million aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) in the US alone
 - Many different uses in several vertical markets
 - Multiple sizes and configurations





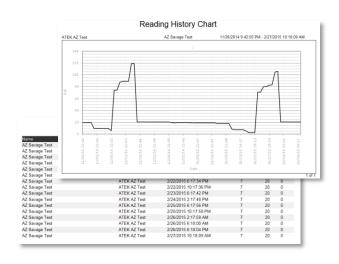




- Three Issues Important to NORA Members
 - Compliance
 - Safety
 - Inventory management









Compliance

- Goals for facilities with large amounts of oil
 - Prevent environmental damage
 - Avoid loss of product
 - Avoid civil law suits
 - Avoid costly clean up measures
- Hazardous waste requirements
 - EPA
 - Comply with EPA's Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) regulations
 - State and local regulations





- Everyone Knows
 - EPA has several regulations that apply to used oil handling
 - Single walled ASTs should have secondary containment
 - Contains spills
 - Allows leaks to be easily detected
 - Containment must hold 110% of contents of largest AST
 - Must be impermeable to the materials being stored
 - Many states require the secondary containment interstitial space be checked regularly for leakage
 - Can be done manually, hand recorded for required record-keeping
 - Technology is available to automate both level measurement and interstitial space compliance





- Less Well Known
 - Largest citation categories
 - · Tanks marked incorrectly
 - Must be "Used Oil"
 - NOT "Waste Oil"
 - Incorrect paperwork
 - Annual reports
 - Help generators know the rules
 - Value-add service to generator accounts





- Problem: Overfill Protection
 - Some states require for bulk storage tanks
- Technology Solutions
 - High level alarm
 - Can be electronic or manual
 - Only serve single function
 - Electronic tank monitor
 - Serves for both overfill protection and tank level
 - Tank levels can be checked before fills
 - Daily inventory records kept automatically



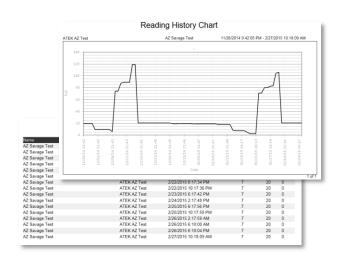




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Safety

- Many safety concerns in tank farms are due to manual tank measurement
 - Employees climbing tanks to measure them and falls occur
 - Inadvertently inhaling toxic fumes
 - Trips and falls when walking through crowded tank farms
- Best practices
 - Mechanical, site or electronic tank gauges reduce risks
 - Keeping tank farm floor clean and dry





Criticality of Safety Measures

- True Story....
 - Deaths of 10 tank workers over last five years have haunting similarities
 - All in jobs requiring climbing on tanks and opening the hatch
 - All in remote locations operating alone
 - No known witnesses to deaths all found laying on or around the tanks
 - Four of the workers involved in tank gauging, five others in sampling the tank contents
 - Causes were all initially ruled as natural, heart failure
 - Safety experts and government regulators are now acknowledging a pattern
 - Now focused on the possible role of hydrocarbon-based fumes
 - Can lead to quick asphyxiation when inhaled in large quantities
 - Government now sending out warnings
 - Many in the industry remain ignorant of possible risks
 - · Recommending automating as many of the tasks as possible



Startling Photo



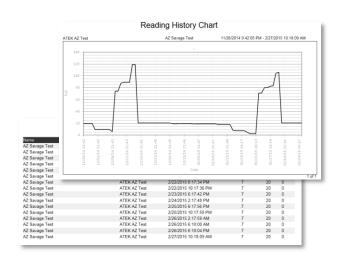
SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION



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- Inventory Management
 - Effective system benefits
 - Reduce shrinkage
 - Prevent billing or accounting errors
 - Make better business decisions
 - Automate compliance requirement reporting
 - Consistent and accurate system requirements
 - Daily inventory of product levels
 - Daily reconciliation of additions and extractions from ASTs
 - Efficient method of tracking and storage of the data
 - Technologies available to optimize best practices
 - Electronic tank monitoring with web-based portals for continual access
 - · Back office or inventory management software
 - · Data warehouse integration





 Matt Gudorf, NORA Member and Chief Managing Officer of Superior Lubricants



- Three Locations
 - North Tonawanda, NY
 - Syracuse, NY
 - Kitchener, Ontario
- Reliance Fluid Technologies, Sister Company
 - Niagara Falls, NY







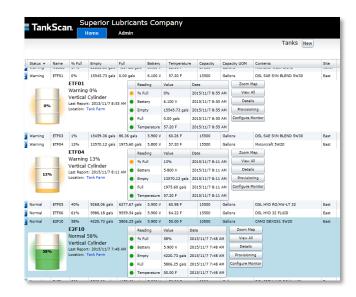
- Problem: Compliance
 - New York State EPA Requirements
 - High level alarms on bulk storage tanks
 - Cost of \$1,200 each plus installation
 - Recordkeeping of inventory levels
 - Manual method is time consuming and labor intensive
- Solution
 - The use of technology for automation
 - Installed wireless tank monitors
- Result
 - Satisfied EPA regulations
 - Inventory levels are automatically taken multiple times a day





- Problem: Inventory Management
 - Previous method was manual
 - Time consuming and costly
 - Subject to inaccuracy and human error
 - Only performed weekly
 - Inefficiently hand written and faxed
- Solution
 - The use of technology
 - Web-based information platform
 - Real-time access to accurate inventory levels
- Result
 - Now have the ability to understand daily and monthly usage
 - Superior can purchase only enough to ensure just-in-time deliveries
 - Saves on inventory investment





- Problem: Need for Cost Savings and Efficiencies
 - EPA regulations for high level alarms
 - \$1,200 each plus install for 240 tanks across the organization (\$288,000 plus installation)
 - Manual inventory overtime expense of \$72 a week per location (\$10,368 annually)
 - Inefficient and inaccurate inventory control methods

Solution

- Installation of wireless tank monitors
 - Addressed all three issues

Result

- Superior Lubricants and Reliant Fluid Technologies
 - Committed to installing monitors on all bulk tanks





Conclusion

- Compliance, safety and inventory management are all important issues in ASTs
- Must be part of overall business plan around AST management
- The use of industry best practices and technology can help solve the challenges efficiently





Contact Info and Questions

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Access the power of technology.

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