YYC Fact Sheet

Requirements for Portable Fuel Tanks

February 2025

PURPOSE

Various projects around the airport often require portable fuels to be installed. The Calgary Airport Authority must ensure portable fuel tanks are fit for purpose and the location of a tank is considered low risk in the event of a release.

Fixed tanks with a capacity greater than 230 liters (L) are required to follow the **Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulation**. This fact sheet only addresses portable tanks that are exempt from the federal regulation.

REQUIREMENTS

The guiding principle for use and siting a portable fuel tank is to be always in complete care and control of the fuel.

The Calgary Airport Authority (YYC) is responsible for ensuring that portable fuel tanks used around the airport are in compliance with safety regulations and minimize risks to the environment and public safety.

The Calgary Airport Authority must take certain precautions regarding the installation and use of portable fuel tanks. Below are key considerations for ensuring these tanks are used in a low-risk manner:

1. Tank Selection:

- Portable fuel tanks should meet safety standards for pressure, construction materials, and containment. Even if exempt from federal regulation, they should be fit for purpose (e.g., durable, and resistant to environmental conditions) and approved by appropriate authorities.

2. Location Considerations:

- The tanks must be placed in areas that minimize risk in case of fuel leakage or spillage. Factors to consider include:

- **Proximity to sensitive areas** (e.g., stormwater drainage system, high traffic areas).
- **Environmental impact**: Locations should be chosen where a release would have minimal environmental consequences.
- **Access to emergency response**: Ensure that fire and spill response teams can quickly reach the site.
- **Safety measures**: Ensure clear signage, proper training for workers, and that tanks are situated away from sources of heat or open flame. The installation of jersey barriers or bollards around the tank system may be required.

3. Containment:

- Portable fuel tanks should be double-walled or equipped with secondary containment systems such as spill containment basins or berms that has the ability to contain a minimum of 110% of the tank capacity. This ensures that any fuel released from the tank stays within a controlled area, preventing widespread contamination. The berming shall be incorporated into the fuel transfer area or drain to an oil water separator.
- Spill kits shall be in place and fully stocked.

4. Risk of Release:

- In case of a release, the potential for fuel leakage or spillage should be minimal. Therefore, the location of the tank should be evaluated with respect to potential risks (e.g., fuel spillage on roads, near water bodies, or in areas with high pedestrian traffic).
- The tank should not be located in an area where there is risk of puncture from surrounding equipment, and operations around the tank should employ a Drive In, Drive Out Policy to reduce maneuvers around the tank.
- Conduct risk assessments regularly to ensure that tanks are placed in areas with minimal environmental or operational hazards.
- An appropriate fully stocked spill kit must be in the near vicinity of the fuel tanks at all times. If supplies from the spill kit are used, the kit must be refilled.
- Spill trays must be used during fueling activities and properly stored when not in use.

5. Regular Inspections:

- Even though portable tanks may not be subject to the same regulations as fixed tanks, they should still undergo regular inspections to check for damage, leaks, or other issues that could lead to a release.
- Inspections should be documented and available upon request.

6. Emergency Response Plan and Fire Safety Plan:

- The responsible party must have an emergency response plan (ERP) and a Fire Safety Plan (FSP) in place for dealing with fuel spills or other accidents. These plans should include protocols for containing spills, evacuating affected areas, and coordinating with local emergency services.
- The ERP and FSP shall be submitted to the Calgary Airport Authority prior to the tank placement.

7. Staff Training:

- Workers handling or overseeing the use of portable fuel tanks should be trained in fuel safety, spill response, and the specific procedures for working around these tanks. Training should be updated regularly.
- All staff must be aware of the YYC Spill Response protocols.

YYC SPILL REPORT E-FORM

If a reportable spill occurs, immediately contact the Integrated Operations Centre (IOC) 403 735-1300 and if required 911.

Report a spill if:

- The substance released is greater than 1.5 m in any direction.
- Has entered the storm water collection system, soil or other part of environment
- Has leaked off site, or
- Required an emergency response or specialized hazardous material response.

Then submit a spill report using the QR code or at this link: https://www.yyc.com/en-us/environment-sustainability/policies-standards-resources

YYC CALGARY AIRPORT AUTHORITY

In summary, while portable fuel tanks may be exempt from federal regulations due to their size or temporary nature, the responsible party must still take steps to ensure they are used in a safe and responsible manner. This includes proper tank selection, careful location choice, the use of containment systems, and maintaining a robust emergency response protocol.