SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL AND COUNTERMEASURE (SPCC) RULES

Section 311 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) addresses pollution from oil and hazardous substance releases, providing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with the authority to establish a program for preventing, preparing for, and responding to oil spills that occur in navigable waters of the United States. EPA’s oil spill program is run by the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The oil spill program includes regulations for the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) program.

Who Is Regulated by the SPCC Rule?

Right now, EPA’s SPCC rules cover your jobsite if (1) your aboveground oil storage containers (in tanks of 55 gallons or greater, including asphalt cement tanks) have a total capacity of more than 1,320 gallons and (2) a spill could reach U.S. waters. The following are exempt from the rule:

- Completely buried storage tanks subject to all the technical requirements of the underground storage tank regulations
- Containers with an oil storage capacity of less than 55 gallons
- Wastewater treatment facilities
- Permanently closed containers
- Motive power containers (e.g., fuel/fluid tanks that move construction equipment)