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3.2 Fuel Systems

3.2.1 Introduction

The components of the fuel systems in residential and non-residential structures can be organized into two categories:

1. Fuel storage tanks
2. Fuel lines, meters, and control panels

There are four major concerns when considering the protection of fuel system components. They are:

- Buoyancy
- Impact Loads
- Scour of lines
- Movement of Connection

The tank shown in Figure 3.2.1 is shown outside of the building. This type of installation is not the typical installation for all applications. Some tanks may be located inside a structure to provide additional protection from damage during flooding.

In general, the figures in this chapter attempt to illustrate some general practices that meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Local codes permit many variations that also meet NFIP regulations. Please refer to your local code officials for specific practices that may meet both NFIP regulations and local code.

3.2.2 NFIP Requirements

The NFIP requires that the fuel system for a new or substantially improved structure located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) be designed so that floodwaters cannot infiltrate or accumulate within any component of the system. See Table 3.2.2 for a summary of compliant mitigation methods.
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Figure 3.2.1: An outline of a fuel system with the fuel tank elevated on a platform beside a house on a crawl space in a flood-prone area

1. FUEL TANK
2. FUEL LINE/PUMP, METER, CONTROL SYSTEM
3. S= SAFE SEPARATION DISTANCE THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS CURRENT FEDERAL REGULATIONS, STATE AND LOCAL ORDINANCES, AND FIRE CODE
4. PIPING CONTAINED IN A RIGID PIPE STRAPPED TO A NON-BREAKAWAY STRUCTURE
5. EARTHEEN FILL MATERIAL

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3.2.3 Fuel Storage Tanks

Where a structure is not connected to public gas service, the fuel for a non-electric Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system and other non-electric equipment is stored on-site in tanks either underground or above ground and inside or outside the building. Most modern commercial fuel tanks are of double-walled construction while most residential fuel tanks are of single-walled construction. The type of construction of the tank should be determined as some of the techniques may not apply to some types of tanks.

Both underground and above ground fuel storage tanks are vulnerable to damage by floodwaters, as illustrated by the following:

- An underground tank surrounded by floodwaters or saturated soil will be subjected to buoyancy forces that could push the tank upward. Such movement of a tank may cause a rupture and/or separation of the connecting pipes.

- Above ground tanks in V Zones and A Zones that experience velocity flow are not only subject to buoyancy forces, but they are also exposed to lateral forces caused by velocity flow, wave action, and debris impact.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods of Mitigation</th>
<th>A Zones</th>
<th>V Zones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Elevation</td>
<td>Highly Recommended</td>
<td>Minimum Requirement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Component Protection</td>
<td>Minimum Requirement</td>
<td>Not Allowed*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2.2: Summary of NFIP regulations

*Allowed only for those items required to descend below the DFE for service connections.

1. **Elevation** refers to the location of a component above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).

2. **Component Protection** refers to the implementation of design techniques that protect a component or group of components located below the DFE from flood damage by preventing floodwater from entering or accumulating within the system components.

NOTE:
The Design Flood Elevation (DFE) is a regulatory flood elevation adopted by a community that is the BFE, at a minimum, and may include freeboard, as adopted by the community.

NOTE:
Refer to manufacturers’ literature and professional tank installers for information regarding the proper installation of fuel storage tanks.

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3.2-4
• An underground tank in a V Zone can be uncovered and exposed by erosion and scour, making it even more vulnerable to buoyancy forces, velocity flows, wave action, and debris impact.

Buoyancy is described in detail later in this section. The effects of buoyancy and/or those of velocity flow can move a tank from its location, break it open, and cause fuel leakage into floodwaters. Such leakage creates the risk of fire, explosion, water supply contamination, and possible health and environmental hazards which would delay cleanup and repair work necessary to occupy the building.

**Elevation**

The most effective technique for providing flood protection for a fuel storage tank is elevation of the tank on a platform above the DFE. *Figure 3.2.3A* shows a tank on an elevated platform. The depth of the footing will be dependent upon the hazards at the site. The following outlines some additional considerations when protecting fuel systems:

• The tank should be anchored to the platform with straps, which would constrain the tank in wind, earthquake, and other applicable forces.

• In coastal zones, the straps should be made of non-corrosive material to prevent rusting.

• In velocity flow areas, the platform should be supported by posts or columns that are adequately designed for all loads including flood and wind loads.

• The posts or columns should have deep concrete footings embedded below expected erosion and scour lines.

• The piles, posts, or columns should be cross-braced to withstand the forces of velocity flow, wave action, wind, and earthquakes; cross-bracing should be parallel to the direction of flow to allow for free flow of debris.

• In non-velocity flow floodplains, elevation can also be achieved by using compacted fill to raise the level of the ground above the DFE and by strapping the tank onto a concrete slab at the top of the raised ground. *Figure 3.2.3B* shows a tank located atop fill.
Component Protection

If a fuel tank must be located below the DFE in an SFHA, it must be protected against the forces of buoyancy, velocity flow, and debris impact. This can be achieved by the following methods:

A. Anchoring Tanks Below Ground

1. A fuel tank located below ground in a flood-prone area can be anchored to a counterweight in order to counteract the buoyancy force that is exerted by saturated soil during a flood.

   One effective method is to anchor the fuel tank to a concrete slab with (non-corrosive) hold-down straps, as shown in Figure 3.2.3C. The straps must also be engineered to bear the tensile stress applied by the buoyancy force. The maximum buoyancy force is equal to the weight of floodwaters which would be required to fill the tank minus the weight of the tank (see Section 3.2.3.1).

2. An alternative design technique involves strapping the tank to concrete counterweights on opposite sides of the tank, as shown in Figure 3.2.3D. The use of this technique is ideal for existing tanks servicing substantially improved structures. Note that the tank in this example is sitting in the concrete anchor, not on it.

CAUTION:

Fill is not suitable for use in areas subject to erosion and scour unless fill has been armoured.
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Figure 3.2.3C: An underground fuel tank anchored to a concrete counterweight
Courtesy of Adamson Global Technology Corp.

Figure 3.2.3D: An underground fuel tank anchored onto poured-in-place concrete counterweights

Underground Storage Tank (UST) use should be minimized due to environmental concerns.
3. Another technique for countering the buoyancy force is by anchoring the tank using earth augers. The holding strength of an auger is a function of its diameter and the type of soil into which the auger is embedded. The use of straps attached to augers is often well suited to an existing tank that services a substantially improved structure. In order to use this system without the risk of failure, proper soil conditions must exist. Always refer to a geotechnical engineer or other knowledgeable professional when designing auger anchors to combat buoyancy forces (see Section 3.2.3.1). Please refer to the tank manufacturer’s literature to determine the proper configuration for the straps.

B. Anchoring Tanks Above Ground

A fuel tank located above ground but below the DFE must be secured against flotation and lateral movement. This requirement applies as well to portable fuel tanks such as propane tanks.

In A Zones, that are not subject to velocity flows, the following techniques can be used:

**Mounting and strapping a tank onto a concrete slab or strapping a tank onto concrete counterweights on both sides of the tank.** The anchoring straps are typically connected to anchor bolts by turnbuckles that are installed when the concrete is poured. Please refer to the supplier’s data when selecting the strap locations for anchoring tanks because a tank can rupture when buoyancy forces are too great. See Figure 3.2.3E for an example of a typical compliant strap configuration. In most applications, brackets, like those shown in Figure 3.2.3F, are designed to withstand the weight of the tank only. Buoyancy forces can exceed the weight of the tank and cause the brackets to fail. A structural engineer or manufacturer’s literature should be used to verify that the bracket used to hold the tank can withstand buoyancy forces (see Section 3.2.3.1).

In coastal areas the strapping mechanism for securing a fuel tank onto a concrete slab must be made of non-corrosive material. The total weight of the counterweights or the concrete slab must be enough to counteract the buoyancy force expected to be exerted on the tank surrounded by floodwater (see Section 3.2.3.1). The sizing process for concrete counterweight is discussed in detail in Section 3.2.3.1. The counterweight can be located at or below grade.
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Figure 3.2.3E: A typical tie down strap configuration of a horizontal propane tank

Figure 3.2.3F: A typical tie down configuration of a horizontal propane tank using brackets
Strapping a tank to earth augers. The augers and strapping mechanism must be strong enough to withstand the buoyancy force expected during inundation and the lateral forces expected with wind and water. Earth augers are readily available from many manufacturers.

It is important to note that the performance of an auger depends upon the type of soil into which it is embedded. For example, an auger has a greater holding strength in clay soil than in sandy soil. Therefore, if the soil conditions are unknown or if the anchors selected cannot withstand anticipated loads, larger-sized or additional anchors should be used. Generally, the total holding strength of an anchoring system can be increased by increasing the number of augers, the size of the augers, or both. Earth augers and anchoring components are readily available from many manufacturers.

Because of environmental concerns, underground storage tanks are not recommended. Elevated storage tanks are also problematic because of concerns about impact damage during flooding. Therefore, for elevated tanks, additional protection must be applied against debris impact and the forces of velocity flow. The following technique can be used to prevent damage from debris impact and the forces of velocity flow:

- Protective walls can be constructed around the tank to protect it from debris impact and the forces of velocity flow. The walls must be higher than the DFE, but they do not have to be watertight. Furthermore, there must be drainage holes at the base of the walls for rain water to drain.

- Concrete guard posts can be constructed around the tank to protect it from debris impact.

C. Vault Tanks

A vault tank is made of a primary steel tank within a secondary steel containment tank. The primary tank is coated with a layer of light-weight concrete. The typical vault is shaped like a rectangle with a sloped top to prevent accumulation of rain water. Vault tanks are available commercially for residential as well as non-residential use.

The vault is anchored to the concrete slab upon which it sits using anchoring beams welded to the bottom of the secondary/outer tank and bolted into the...
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concrete slab. If properly designed and constructed, the anchoring system eliminates the possibility of flotation due to buoyancy, and lateral movement due to wind and seismic activity.

For additional protection against debris impact, the vault may be surrounded by guard posts.

The fuel piping below the DFE must be strapped to the vault or contained in a protective shaft on the landward or downstream side. The vent pipe from the tank must extend above the DFE.

The vault tanks normally come with the manufacturer’s calculations of the concrete volume required to counteract for buoyancy.

### 3.2.3.1 Calculation of Buoyancy Forces

This section addresses the powerful buoyancy forces that are exerted on buried tanks. *Figure 3.2.3.1A* shows the power of buoyancy forces to lift tanks. The tank in the photo is an abandoned gas tank that came up through the asphalt and soil that had covered it. The following formulas and tables are the basic tools used when calculating buoyancy forces acting on tanks.

\[
F_b = 0.134V_t \gamma FS
\]

*Where:*  
- \(F_b\) is the buoyancy force exerted on the tank, in pounds.  
- \(V_t\) is the volume of the tank in gallons.  
- 0.134 is a factor to convert gallons to cubic feet.  
- \(\gamma\) is the specific weight of flood water surrounding the tank (generally 62.4 lb/ft\(^3\) for fresh water and 64.1 lb/ft\(^3\) for salt water.)  
- FS is a factor of safety to be applied to the computation, typically 1.3 for tanks.

Formula 3.2.3.1A: Calculation of buoyancy force exerted on a tank (tank buoyancy)

\[
\text{Net Buoyancy} = \text{Tank Buoyancy (}F_b\text{)} \times \text{Tank Weight} - \text{Equivalent flood weight of soil (see Table 3.2.3.1A) acting as a counterweight(s) over Tank}
\]

Formula 3.2.3.1B: Calculation of net buoyancy force

---

*NOTE:* To minimize buoyancy forces, fuel tanks should be re-fueled prior to flooding.
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Formula 3.2.3.1C: Calculation of the number of hold down straps

\[ \text{No. of Hold Down Straps Required} = \frac{\text{Net Buoyancy}}{\text{Allowable Working Load of each strap}} \]

Formula 3.2.3.1D: Calculation of the volume of concrete necessary to resist buoyancy

\[ V_t = \left( \frac{\text{Net Buoyancy}}{\text{Density of Concrete}} \right) \text{FS} \]

Table 3.2.3.1A: Effective Equivalent Fluid Weight of Soil(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Type*</th>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S, Equivalent Fluid Weight of Moist Soil</td>
<td>Equivalent Fluid Weight of Submerged Soil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(pounds per cubic foot)</td>
<td>and Water (pounds per cubic foot)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean sand and gravel:</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GW, GP, SW, SP</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dirty sand and gravel</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of restricted permeability:</td>
<td>GM, GM-GP, SM, SM-SP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stiff residual silts</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and clays, silty file</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sands, claye sands and</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gravels:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL, ML, CH, MH, SM, SC,</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very soft to soft clay,</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silty clay, organic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silt and clay:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL, ML, OL, CH, MH, OH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium to stiff clay</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deposited in chunks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and protected from</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infiltration:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CL, CH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.2.3.1B: Soil Type Definitions Based on USDA Unified Soil Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Soil Type</th>
<th>Group Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gravels</td>
<td>GW</td>
<td>Well-graded gravel and gravel mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GP</td>
<td>Poorly graded gravel-sand-silt mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GM</td>
<td>Silty gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GC</td>
<td>Clayey gravels, gravel-sand-clay mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sands</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Well-graded sands and gravelly sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SP</td>
<td>Poorly graded sands and gravelly sands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Silty sands, poorly graded sand-silt mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SC</td>
<td>Clayey sands, poorly graded sand-clay mixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine</td>
<td>ML</td>
<td>Inorganic silts and clayey silts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grain</td>
<td>CL</td>
<td>Inorganic clays of low to medium plasticity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>silt and</td>
<td>OL</td>
<td>Organic silts and organic silty clays of low plasticity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>clays</td>
<td>MH</td>
<td>Inorganic silts, micaceous or fine sands or silts,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CH</td>
<td>Elastic silts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Organic clays of high plasticity, fine clays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Organic clays of medium to high plasticity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3.2-12
A buoyancy flow chart, Figure 3.2.3.1B, and Example 3.2.3.1 follow Figure 3.2.3.1A.

Figure 3.2.3.1A: Tank lifted by buoyancy forces

Figure 3.2.3.1B: Flow chart of buoyancy force calculations
Example 3.2.3.1: Calculation of allowable load for tank straps

A 500-gallon fuel tank is going to be located next to a new building in a Zone AE floodplain in silty clay. The site will not be subject to velocity flow, so lateral forces and scour are not major concerns. The client is concerned about the buoyancy forces that will be acting on the tank during a flood. The tank manufacturer specified 3 locations where a strap should be installed to properly spread the load across the tank. A large concrete slab will be installed 6 feet below ground on which the tank will be fastened. The slab will be approximately 1.5 feet thick, and the top will have dimensions of 4 feet by 5.5 feet. What is the allowable load that the tie down straps will be required to withstand?

First, the dimensions of the tank must be determined. This can be obtained from the manufacturer’s literature. The double-walled cylindrical tank that the client wants to use is approximately 4 feet in diameter, 5½ feet long, and weighs 650 lb.

**Step 1:** Using *Formula 3.2.3.1A*, the Buoyancy Force \(F_b\) that will be exerted on the tank, will be calculated:

\[
F_b = 0.134 \times 500 \times 62.4 \times 1.3 = 5,435 \text{ lb.}
\]

- \(V_t = 500 \text{ gallons}\)
- \(\gamma = 62.4 \text{ lb./ft.}^3\) (fresh water)
- \(FS = 1.3\) (This value should be verified with a geotechnical engineer familiar with local soil conditions)

**Step 2:** To determine the equivalent fluid weight of the earth over the tank and counterweight, a geotechnical engineer or other knowledgeable professional should be consulted. In general the following method is used to determine the weight of the soil:

\[
\text{Volume of soil}(\text{ft.}^3) = \text{Tank area} (\text{as viewed from top})(\text{ft.}^2) \times \text{Depth of tank}(\text{ft.})
\]

Tank area = 4 * 5.5 = 22 ft.²

Depth of soil over tank = 6 - 4 (tank diam.[ft.]) - 1.5 (slab thickness[ft.]) = 0.5 ft.

Volume of soil over tank = 22 * 0.5 + \left(\frac{3.14 \times 2^2 \times 5.5}{2}\right) = 20.5 \text{ ft.}^3

Density of saturated soil = 106 lb./ft.³ (see Table 3.2.3.1A)

Weight of Earth over Tank = 20.5 * 106 = 2,173 lb.
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Step 3: Next, **Net Buoyancy Force** should be calculated using *Formula 3.2.3.1B*.

\[
\text{Net Buoyancy} = 5,435 - 650 - 2,173 = 2,612 \text{ lb.}
\]

Step 4: After the net buoyancy force has been determined, *Formula 3.2.3.1C* can be used to determine either the number of straps or the required **Allowable Load** of each strap. In this example, the manufacturer determined the number and location of straps, so the allowable load will be determined.

\[
\text{Allowable Load(lb.)} = \frac{\text{Net Buoyancy(lb.)}}{\text{No. of Hold Down Straps Required}}.
\]

\[
2,612 / 3 = 871 \text{ lb./strap}
\]

Based on these calculations, the three straps should each be selected so that they have an allowable load of 871 pounds.

These calculations have all been based on the assumption that the concrete slab is heavy enough not to be lifted by the tank and straps. As a check, the weight of the tank and the equivalent fluid weight of any additional overbearing soil should be compared to the net buoyancy force to ensure that the buoyant tank will not lift the slab.

\[
\text{Weight of the slab(lb.)} + \text{equivalent fluid weight of overbearing soil(lb.)} > \text{Net Buoyancy Force(lb.)}
\]

The weight of the counterweight slab is calculated using *Formula 3.2.1D*.

\[
\text{Volume of slab(ft.}^3\text{)} = \text{Slab area (as viewed from top)(ft.}^2\text{)} \times \text{Thickness of slab(ft.)}
\]

\[
\text{Slab area} = 4 \times 5.5 = 22 \text{ ft.}^2
\]

\[
\text{Thickness of slab} = 1.5 \text{ ft.}
\]

\[
\text{Volume of slab} = 22 \times 1.5 = 33 \text{ ft}^3
\]

\[
\text{Density of concrete} = 150 \text{ lb./ft.}^3 \text{ (this must be verified by the local concrete supplier, aggregate densities can vary widely depending on source of the material)}
\]

\[
\text{Weight of concrete slab} = 33 \times 150 = 4,950 \text{ lb.}
\]

As a check, compare the weight of the slab to the net buoyancy force, including a factor of safety.

\[
4,950 \text{ lb.} > (2,612 \times 1.3) = 3,396 \text{ lb.}
\]

Therefore, the slab weighs enough to prevent the buoyant tank from lifting.
3.2.4 Fuel Lines, Gas Meters, Control Panels

Flood waters present the following dangers to fuel lines, gas meters, and control panels:

- In V Zones and A Zones subject to velocity flows, the forces of velocity flow and debris impact can break unprotected fuel pipes, particularly at the point of entry through the exterior wall of the building and/or the fuel tank structure.

- The forces of velocity flow can cause scour and soil erosion that would expose the fuel pipes going into the buildings they service. Once exposed, the pipes can be broken by debris impact and the forces of velocity flow. In addition, scour and erosion can undermine a building’s foundation.

- Fuel leaking from broken fuel pipes into floodwaters will cause environmental contamination and create a fire hazard.

- The corrosive elements in flood waters can act upon unprotected fuel pipes causing rust and, eventually, perforation. Fuel from perforated pipes will leak out and contaminate the soil, groundwater, and flood waters.

- A typical natural gas meter is equipped with a relief valve or vent. Should the pressure relief valve or vent, or any control panel associated with it, become submerged during a flood, the valve might fail to operate properly, possibly resulting in a natural gas pressure surge entering a building.

**Elevation**

In order to prevent fuel lines from breaking at wall penetration points as a result of velocity flow, the fuel pipes should be designed to penetrate walls above the DFE. Ideally, each fuel line should be kept completely above the DFE.

As with electrical meters, utility companies should be encouraged to elevate gas meters and controls above the DFE. Should this not be practical, the vent opening can be extended above the DFE through the use of a standpipe attached to the meter vent. An elevated gas meter with controls can be made accessible by providing steps below the meter, or by locating the meter on a deck above the DFE with access to the deck from ground level.
Component Protection

Where it is not possible to elevate the whole length of a fuel line above the DFE, the pipe can be protected by strapping it to the landward downstream side of the vertical structural member, as shown in Figure 3.2.4A.

In coastal areas the straps must be composed of non-corrosive materials.

An alternative protection method for fuel lines is to enclose the vertical fuel line that exits from the protective wall around the tank within a utility shaft. The vertical pipe that enters into the structure should also be enclosed in a utility shaft. The protective shafts can either be made of concrete, metal, or rigid plastic pipe, and they must extend above the DFE. If the shaft is not watertight, drainage holes should be provided at the base of the shaft. Figure 3.2.4B shows an exterior elevated fuel tank and the associated piping.

The underground horizontal pipe run must be below the frost line and the expected line of scour and erosion in V Zones. Since flood-damaged fuel tanks have proven to be a significant source of potential environmental risk,
Figure 3.2.4B: The vertical runs of fuel piping embedded in utility shafts strapped to non-breakaway structures.
New and Substantially Improved Buildings

Fuel Systems

compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations is essential. As a result of stringent Environmental Protection Agency monitoring of commercial and non-residential fuel system installations, many manufacturers currently produce watertight fuel system components (tanks and piping) with secondary containment designs. Secondary containment designs are also highly recommended for residential fuel systems.

It is important that fuel piping have some flexibility. During a flood, uneven settlement of a structure can occur due to soil saturation. Such movement can cause the rigid, metallic pipe connections to the tank and through the exterior wall of the building to break off.

Fuel line wall penetrations that are located below the DFE must be properly designed to permit movement of the line while keeping the building watertight. It should also be noted that standard vertical and horizontal penetrations are typically of differing designs and one may be more applicable to certain uses than others. Refer to local code officials regarding the proper use of wall penetration sealant.

3.2.5 Conclusion

The following figure and table have been provided which summarize the overall design approach for flood resistant fuel systems in new and substantially improved buildings. Figure 3.2.5 is a flow chart that outlines the steps involved in the design of a flood resistant fuel system. Table 3.2.5 is a checklist to aid in the review of proposed designs or existing systems for compliance with Federal, State, and local regulations. In addition, a sketch sheet is included so that the locations or details of the system can be noted. The tables are intended to assist designers and building officials in providing the most effective level of flood protection for fuel system components.
Figure 3.2.5: Flow chart of flood resistant fuel system design
## FLOOD RESISTANT FUEL SYSTEM CHECKLIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property ID:</th>
<th>Property Contact:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property Name:</td>
<td>Interviewed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Address:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveyed By:</td>
<td>Date Surveyed:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DFE:**

- What type of fuel system supplies the building?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Above ground</th>
<th>Below ground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is tank anchored to the ground properly?</td>
<td>Is tank protected from buoyancy forces properly?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are fuel lines protected from impact?</td>
<td>Is the fuel tank top protected from impact?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the tank support structure designed to handle velocity flow?</td>
<td>Are fuel lines protected from impact?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Natural Gas Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the incoming natural gas line protected from impact?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What type of gas line is used?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the gas meter protected from inundation by floodwaters?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Inside the building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is a fuel storage tank located at the building?</th>
<th>Is the fuel storage tank of double-walled design?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the tank properly distanced from the wall and ignition sources?</td>
<td>Describe the tank anchoring system:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- What components are located below the DFE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tank</th>
<th>Fuel Lines</th>
<th>Gas Meters</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Other:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Table 3.2.5: Checklist for flood resistant fuel system design
Sketch sheet
(for details, notes, or data regarding system installations)