Source
FUELING EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS
Listening. Solving. Delivering.

SourceLine
News & Insights

VOL 14
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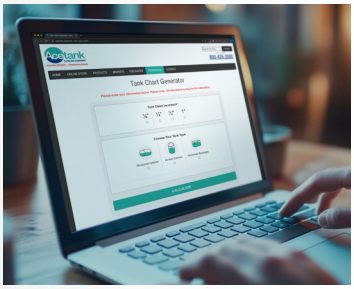
Coming Soon! A New Facility in California

Source is opening a third location in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. We'll provide you all the details when we're open for business. Stay tuned!



Create a Free Tank Chart Today

Ace Tank & Fueling Equipment is celebrating over 80 years of providing turnkey FuelSafe fuel storage and handling systems. Other achievements at Ace Tank include launching a free online Tank Chart Generator.

Connect With Us on Social Media!

The SourceLine newsletter is an excellent way to stay informed about industry topics, but there's even more to learn on our social media channels:

- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- X
- YouTube

The Premium Paradox

Something seems amiss with new cars and higher-octane fuel grades. Consider this:

Most new vehicles include guidance from the manufacturer recommending or requiring higher-octane gasoline. However, a closer look at fuel sales suggests a disconnect: premium fuel purchases aren't keeping pace with the growing number of vehicles designed to run on higher-octane gasoline. This trend suggests that new-car owners may be bypassing premium fuel.

Modern Engines, Premium Expectations

Manufacturers are designing engines to operate with 91 octane gasoline or higher to prevent "knocking." Previously reserved mostly for luxury brands, this requirement now extends to common segments.

The Fuel Sales Discrepancy

Although premium and midgrade fuel sales are increasing (around 2.5% from 2023 to 2024, per Upside data), they don't fully align with new car sales. Regular gasoline still accounts for approximately 73% of all fuel sold. This disparity suggests drivers may be choosing regular unleaded, possibly due to a lack of awareness or immediate cost savings.

Why the Correct Grade Matters

Using 87-octane gasoline in a vehicle designed for premium can adversely affect the automobile's performance. Drivers may notice diminished power, reduced fuel efficiency and fuel economy, and accelerated engine wear. Auto manufacturers may also void warranties to cover repairs for vehicles running on a lower-grade fuel.

Opportunity for Education at the Pump

As engine technology continues to grow more sophisticated, manufacturers are likely to expand premium fuel requirements. Educating consumers about this trend could not only encourage proper vehicle care but also support increased premium fuel sales.

California Fuels Rules Update

- Higher fuel taxes and an amended Low Carbon Fuel Standard with higher carbon intensity reduction targets took effect. Furthermore, two refineries are expected to close in the next year.
- President Donald Trump signed a resolution to block California's rule banning the sale of new cars with internal combustion engines and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of NACS's petition to challenge the California Advanced Clear Cars I rule.
- A bill to immediately authorize the use of E15 is moving swiftly through the California legislature.
- The state's mandate to close single-walled USTs by Dec. 31 remains in force.

NACS SHOW 2025

Connect With Us at These Shows

CFCA Summit: Booth 410, Sept. 3-4 in San Diego, CA. Be sure to enjoy a refreshment at the beer garden we are sponsoring!

NECSEMA Expo: Booth 31, Sept. 10 in Worcester, MA.

PEI Convention at the NACS Show: Booth S3520, Oct. 15-17 in Chicago, IL.

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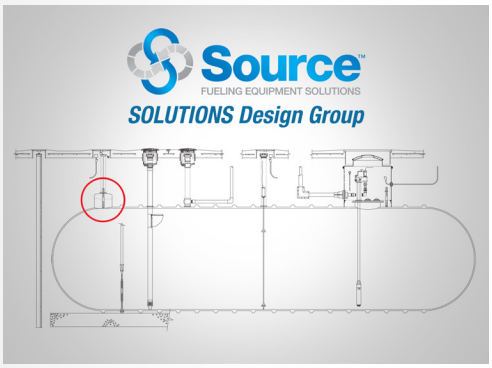
Things Are Heating Up at the Source University Training Center!

We're proud to report that the Source University training facility continues to set the standard for technical training opportunities in the fueling equipment industry.

From compliance education to hands-on equipment demos, our summer schedule has been packed with impactful sessions. In the past couple of months, we welcomed architectural and engineering firms, leading authorities in industry best practices, service providers and retail fueling operators.

To inquire about setting up an event at the training center or to take a 360° tour of the training facility's classroom amenities, please visit the Source University Training Center web page.



Equipment Guide: What Interstitial Tank Sensors Are and How They Work

Q: What function do interstitial tank sensors perform?

A: Interstitial tank sensors are used in an underground storage tank monitoring system to indicate when liquid is leaking into a UST's interstice, which is the gap between the inner wall and outer wall of a double-walled tank.

Q: What are the different types of interstitial tank sensors?

A: Because the tank may be leaking into the interstice from either the inner or outer wall of the UST, different varieties of interstitial tank sensors are available to help indicate what kind of leak is occurring.

In a brine-filled system, a reservoir is installed on the top of the tank and filled with a brine (or glycol) solution. The reservoir opens to the interstice at the bottom. The interstitial sensor monitors for changes in the level or pressure of the brine. A brine-filled system equipped with a dual float hydrostatic sensor, as shown in the illustration, provides information about the source of the leak.

In dry interstitial monitoring, the gap between the two tank walls remains empty. The sensor's job is to detect the presence of liquid entering the normally dry space. Non-discriminating and discriminating sensors for dry interstice monitoring are available. Learn more about brine-filled and dry interstitial monitoring in this expanded SourceLine article.

Q: Where can I learn more about interstitial monitoring?

A: Learn more about monitoring UST interstices on the Petroleum Equipment Institute's Wiki and RP100.

Q: What brands of interstitial tank sensors does Source North America supply?

A: We supply interstitial tank sensors from Incon, OMNTEC, OPW Fuel Management Systems, Pneumercator and Veeder-Root.

Q: How do I order interstitial tank sensors?

A: Contact your local Source representative or visit Shop.sourcena.com.

Two Prominent Industry Resources Now Available

Two resources that benchmark C-store performance have been released:

CSP

2025 CSP Category Handbook: This report shares insights about how eight convenience-store categories performed in 2024.

NACS State of the Industry Report®

NACS State of the Industry Report: The report provides data and analysis and identifies key trends from 2024.