

Unified Program Newsletter – March 2024

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CalEPA

CERS

CERS Stale User Account Deletion

A California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) regulator or business user account that has been inactive for one or more years is considered a stale account. Stale accounts pose a security risk as each account offers a malicious actor opportunity to gain access to CERS. To comply with CalEPA’s Information Security policies, any CERS account with no login activity within one year will be disabled and removed. This includes first responder and other government account types.

CalEPA will be emailing users with no recent login activities to prompt a log-in. Please ensure users provided access to CERS who have not logged into CERS within the last year, log in before March 15, 2024, to prevent impacts to user access.

Unified Program Agencies (UPA) shall continue CERS access procedures remain in place per CCR, Title 27 as follows:

- Section 15180(e)(4), requiring established written procedures for providing HMRRP information to emergency response personnel and other appropriate government entities in accordance with HSC Section 25504(c); and
- Sections 15185(f) and 15100(b)(2)(B)(i)(c), requiring access to the information collected in CERS to be provided to local information management systems, and to agencies with shared responsibilities for protection of the public health and safety and the environment.

Cal FIRE OSFM

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Advisory Committee

The next APSA Advisory Committee meeting will be held on April 3, 2024. The agenda will be available at least 10 days before the meeting on the APSA Advisory Committee website (<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/committees/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act-apsa-advisory-committee>).

CERS Resources for APSA – How to Complete and Submit

The following resources are available on the OSFM APSA Program websites to assist with your APSA submittal to CERS.

- Is your petroleum regulated under APSA?
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/petroleum>
- Is your facility regulated under APSA?
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/is-my-facility-regulated-under-the-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act>
- Is your farm regulated under APSA?
- <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/is-my-farm-regulated-under-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act-apsa>
and
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/farms>
- Prepare an APSA submittal in CERS
<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/pipeline-safety-and-cupa/certified-unified-program-agency/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act/preparing-an-aboveground-petroleum-storage-act>

If you have questions about the APSA Program or your APSA submittal in CERS, please contact your local Unified Program Agency (<https://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/PublicDirectory>) or contact OSFM at cupa@fire.ca.gov.

Security of Fuel Tank Systems

With fuel prices continuing to stay high, tank facility owners or operators should take extra precautions to secure their fuel aboveground storage tank (AST) systems from theft. When fuel costs are high, fuel theft is an issue. Common access points for

vandals include fill caps/ports and any other place where equipment provides access and product removed. Vandalism associated with fuel theft often also results in fuel releases.

Tank facility owners or operators are required to ensure they secure and control access to the oil handling, processing, and storage areas; secure master flow and drain valves; prevent unauthorized access to starter controls on oil pumps; secure out-of-service and loading/unloading connections of oil pipelines; and address the appropriateness of security lighting to both prevent acts of vandalism and assist in the discovery of oil discharges (Health and Safety Code, Section 25270.4.5(a) with reference to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 112, Section 112.7(g)).

References or links to information cited in this newsletter are subject to change. CalEPA is interested in your comments and suggestions regarding the Unified Program monthly newsletter. Please email your comments and suggestions to: cupa@calepa.ca.gov.

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