

Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Tents

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 756
SECOND EDITION, JANUARY 2024



American
Petroleum
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Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Tents

1 Scope

1.1 General

This recommended practice (RP) provides guidance for managing the risks from process related explosion, fire, and toxic material release hazards to personnel located in on-site tents.

The document is based on the API 752 guidance for siting evaluations and the referenced documents concerning its technical aspects. For guidance on the evaluation of each hazard type, the reader should reference API 752. This document provides clarifications and alterations where necessary to address tents.

This RP covers new and existing tents whether they are intended to be movable or intended for use in a specific, fixed location.

[Annex B](#) provides examples on the coverage of permanent and portable buildings/tents.

This RP was developed for use at refineries, petrochemical and chemical operations, natural gas liquids extraction plants, natural gas liquefaction plants, and other onshore facilities, such as those covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSH) process safety management regulation, 29 CFR 1910.119^[1].

Non-process related hazards exist which could present risks to tent occupants including, but not limited to, fires originating from within the tent, structural collapse due to extreme weather/seismic events, and objects falling on or striking the tent. These non-process related hazards are addressed by building design standards and applicable building codes/regulations; and are not within the scope of this RP.

1.2 Guiding Principles

API has established guiding principles for building/tent siting, which are used in API 752, API 753, and API 756. These guiding principles apply to all buildings and tents intended for occupancy:

- 1) locate personnel away from process areas consistent with safe and effective operations;
- 2) minimize the use of buildings/tents in close proximity to process areas;
- 3) manage the occupancy of buildings/tents in close proximity to process areas, especially during periods of planned abnormal operation with increased risk including, but not limited to, unit start-up, testing, or planned shut-down operations;
- 4) design, construct, install, modify, and maintain buildings/tents to protect occupants from the hazards created by explosion, fire, and toxic material release;
- 5) manage the use of buildings/tents as an integral part of the design, construction, maintenance, operation, and emergency response of a facility.

These guiding principles reflect the concept of the hierarchy of controls. With respect to tent hazards, mitigations arranged in a hierarchy, beginning with the most effective, involve:

- eliminating either the occupancy or the hazards;
- reducing occupancy or the severity of the hazards;
- increasing the distance between the occupants and the hazards;
- increasing the resistance of the tent to the hazards;