

# Palm Beach County's Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance Program

## The Problem

- Various hazardous substances and petroleum based materials are stored and used in large quantities throughout Palm Beach County.
- If improperly handled, these materials can threaten surface and groundwater supplies that serve as drinking water sources.

## The Solution

- In 1984, Chapters 62-761 and 62-762 Florida Administrative Code were passed to regulate petroleum storage tanks to prevent avoidable discharges.
- In 1988, ERM contracted with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to administer the Storage Tank Compliance Program for Palm Beach County (PBC).
- In 2003, PBC adopted the Petroleum Storage Systems Ordinance which allowed ERM to pursue enforcement against non compliant facilities and owners.

## Benefits

- Provides the first line of defense and the highest level of protection for PBC's land and water resources and drinking water supplies.
- Provides rapid response by experienced staff to assess daily compliance concerns and investigate reported or suspected discharges.

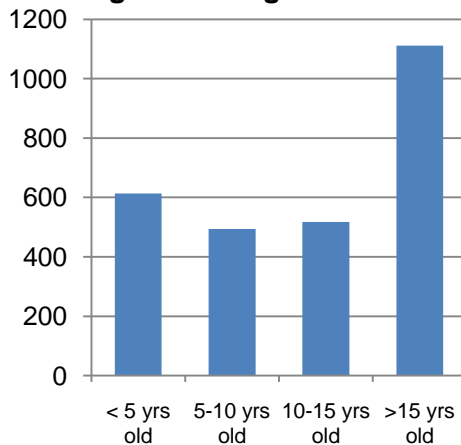


Underground storage tank systems are often installed in high ground water levels in Palm Beach County



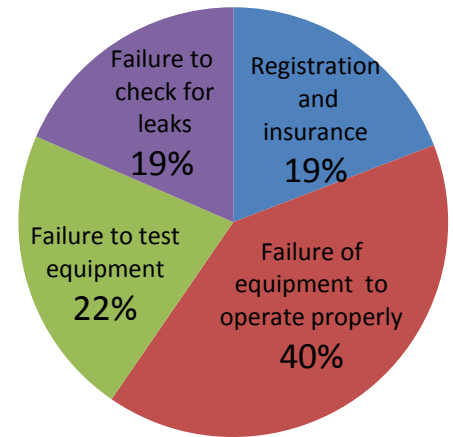
Aboveground storage tank system at a marina along the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach County

## Age of Storage Tanks in PBC



Storage tanks represented include aboveground and underground tanks.

## Violations Found in PBC During 2011



During 2011, the majority of violations found during inspections were resolved quickly due to PBC staff oversight.

## Program Overview

- **1,320 registered facilities** in PBC store and dispense petroleum products in **2,826 tanks** ranging in size from **110 to more than 21 million gallons**.
- Staff work diligently to ensure public and environmental safety by:
  - Conducting annual compliance inspections.
  - Investigating reported/suspected discharges.
  - Overseeing tank installations and removals.
  - Reviewing plans for tank installs/removals.
  - Verifying that equipment meets the code.
  - Issuing annual marina spill plan certifications.
  - Verifying that gas stations have backup power ability.
  - Maintaining an online database of over 2
  - 5 years of storage tank records.
  - Responding to more than 4,000 requests annually for technical assistance, general information, complaints, and plan review.

## Hot Topic

- What about those double walled systems? Isn't secondary containment the answer to preventing leaks?
  - **Nothing is leak proof-even double walled systems.**
  - Much of the storage tank system components such as product piping, spill buckets, sumps, and dispenser liners require frequent repair or replacement.
  - Many storage tank system component leaks will go undetected without required monthly monitoring and equipment testing.
  - Over 1,500 petroleum discharges have been reported in PBC since 1992 when storage tank secondary containment was first required.
  - Recently, alternative fuel blends have shown corrosive properties that may shorten the life of existing storage tank system components.

