

How Often Does Lightning Ignite Tank Fires?

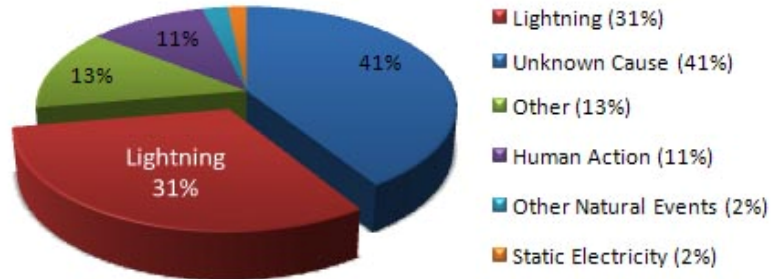
“Of all the 480 identified fires, lightning was declared to be the cause for ignition in about 150 of the fires. It should be noted that for about 190 of the fires, there is no information available about the ignition source.”

- BRANDFORSK Project 513-021

“Looking specifically at storage and processing activities, lightning accounts for 61% of the accidents initiated by natural events... in North America, 16 out of 20 accidents involving petroleum products storage tanks were due to lightning strikes.”

-Journal of Hazardous Materials 40 (1995) 43-54

Lightning is the leading known cause of tank fires.

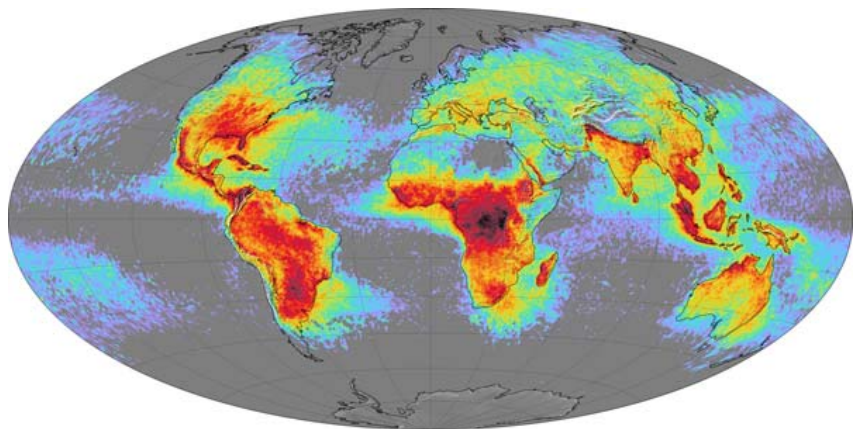
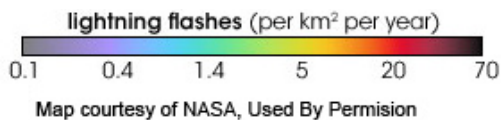


Recent Tank Fires in the News

- **November 2007 - South Africa:** Lightning starts a fire on a tank holding **7.5 million liters of petroleum**. It lasted **57 ½ hours** damaging about **\$16 million USD** worth of petrol and equipment.
- **July 2007 - NJ, USA:** Lightning strikes a tank containing **1.5 million gallons of xylene**.
- **April 2007 - OK, USA:** Lightning ignites **two 80,000 gallon tanks of naptha**.
- **June 2006 - OK, USA:** Lightning ignites a **125,000-barrel gasoline tank nearly full** of unleaded gasoline
- **August 2006 - LA, USA:** **2-million gallon gas tank** struck by lightning.
- **July 2002 - Nigeria:** **7.5 million gallons were lost** when fire fighters failed to gain control of a rim fire caused by a lightning strike.
- **May 2002 - Poland:** A **10,000m³ tank was destroyed** as a result of being struck by lightning.
- **August 2001 - KS, USA:** **Five tanks were destroyed** in one incident after fire spread from a tank which had been struck by lightning.

Where is the risk?

Devastating fires can occur **anywhere lightning strikes**, though areas in red and black are at the highest risk of frequent lightning strikes. Areas in grey may still have infrequent but intense strikes.



Our lightning and grounding systems **significantly reduce the risk** of lightning induced tank fires.

How well protected are you?