



Morrison Bros. Co.
325 E. 24th St.
P.O. Box 238
Dubuque, IA 52004-0238

Tel: 800-553-2709 ext. 221
Tel: 563-583-0632 ext. 221
Fax: 563-583-5028
E-mail: rzillig@morbro.com
Website: <http://www.morbro.com>

February 14, 2007

Attention: Morrison Distributor

Subject: Normal Vent and Emergency Vent Freezing

Morrison Bros. Co. manufactures and sells normal and emergency vents that are used on shop fabricated aboveground storage tanks. Normal vents are designed to provide pressure and vacuum relief for venting during normal operation when filling the tank or when dispensing fuel out of the tank. The emergency vents are designed to relieve excessive pressure from the tank in the event that pressurization of the tank exceeds one (1) PSI.

Not all owners and operators of aboveground fuel storage tanks follow appropriate procedures when freezing weather conditions exist. Not all owners and operators of aboveground fuel storage tanks have implemented and/or follow proper safety procedures to avoid accidents that can result from freezing vents. Not all individuals, such as installers, operators, and drivers whose routines involve aboveground fuel storage handling systems follow proper safety procedures to avoid accidents that can result from freezing vents. Under certain atmospheric and weather conditions, normal vents and emergency vents may freeze to the point that could impede safe venting capacity. These weather conditions can include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) A sudden drop in outside temperature.
- 2) Freezing rain.
- 3) Ice and snow accumulation.

When such weather conditions result in freezing vents and impeded venting capacity, it is critical that operators and drivers follow appropriate procedures to determine whether a hazard exists. An aboveground atmospheric fuel storage tank can rapidly become over-pressurized or under-pressurized during routine filling or unloading operation as a result of an impeded venting capacity, which can cause structural damage to the tank, fuel spillage, property damage, fire, serious injury, and/or death.

All atmospheric vents are subject to freezing conditions. 100% accident prevention under freezing conditions is not possible if reliance is based solely on equipment performance. 100% assurance for accident prevention under freezing conditions requires that the driver and/or operator take appropriate action as a result of proper knowledge and training in regard to this hazard. Such action may involve physically checking the vents on top of the tank before filling or unloading, which requires a means for safe access to the vents. **If safe physical inspections of the vents is not possible, and any other means of assurance are not available such as pressure/vacuum monitoring, filling or unloading fuel from the tank under freezing conditions must not be performed until it is assured that there are no impedances in the venting function and capacity.**

This notice is to remind and warn all distributors of Morrison Bros. Co. equipment of this condition and also a notice to be forwarded to owners and operators, regulators, system designers, installers, and any others known to distributors who work with aboveground fuel storage systems and who will benefit from this information. Any specific questions regarding design, installation, inspection, and operation of Morrison venting equipment should be directed to Morrison Bros. Co. at (800) 553-4840.

