OKLAHOMA ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

BEV?? HEV?? PEV??
What do these abbreviations have in common?

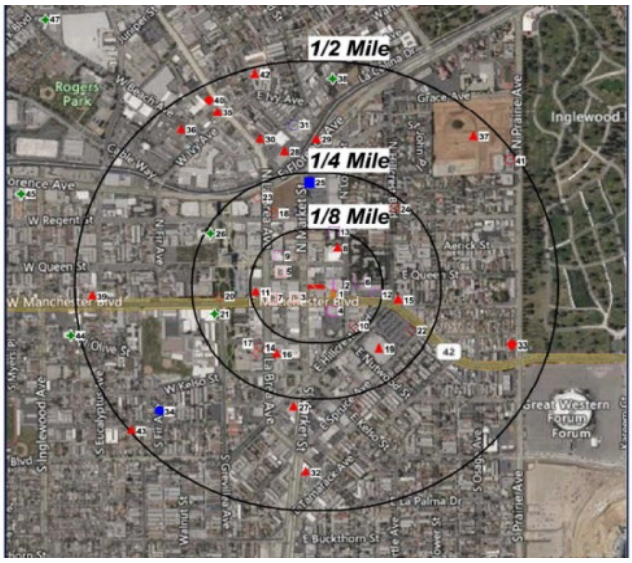
Battery Electric Vehicle
Hybrid Electric Vehicle
Plug-in Electric Vehicle

Most of these vehicles can now travel 150-250 miles before needing a charge. The electric vehicle (EV) market is developing and changing quickly. The Oklahoma legislature is now considering several measures that will mandate the ways we tax EVs, what credits are available, and how charging stations will be regulated. The US has seen increased sales of EVs in the last two years, with help from federal or state tax credits that bring cost of ownership much closer compared with conventional vehicles. With news of legislation that intends to reduce use of internal combustion engines over time, the demand for, the installation of and the operation of EV charging infrastructure is happening now.

Several studies have been conducted recently to consider total cost of ownership, consumer attitudes for adoption, and prediction of the areas of highest consumer demand. Currently most (70-90%) of EVs are charging at home. Future predictions indicate public locations will include entire parking lots, gas stations, grocery stores, hotels, and apartment complexes that will offer DC fast charging equipment. For 2021, one study predicted a 70% increase in electric vehicle sales in the US and said that as charging infrastructure grows, businesses will recover and restart their fleet electrification plans.

We can anticipate both federal grants and state tax credits for funding of infrastructure to be offered with the national focus on clean energy alternatives. Currently, only 40,000 public charging stations have been registered with the U.S. Department of Energy, compared to around 150,000 U.S. gas stations.

What is an Environmental Assessment or Investigation?



It can be essential for anyone who is considering purchasing new property to be aware of environmental risks that may be found on that property. This information is important for liability reasons and the potential costs and fines associated with an environmental cleanup. Investigations are often the first step of the environmental due diligence process to determine any potential contaminants on your property.

Why You May Need an Investigation?

Some signs of contamination, like dead vegetation, surface staining, and groundwater sheens are visible. But contamination is not always obvious. An investigation can determine potential areas of the site where the soils or groundwater may have been contaminated from past property uses. Environmental investigations can provide information about historical and current uses of the property. It matters if the uses involved environmental contaminants, like petroleum or solvents. **Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs)** may be required if you are financing a loan.

What Happens During an Investigation?

The first step is conducting a Phase 1 ESA. The investigator performs an on-site inspection of the land, observes current property use and then researches property records and conducts interviews to determine if there are any Recognized Environmental Conditions (RECs) that may be present for the property. If RECs are reported in the Phase 1 ESA, the investigator may recommend conducting a **Phase 2 ESA**. During this step, investigators take samples of the groundwater, soils and/or vapors, which are then tested in a lab for pollutants. After that, a **Phase 3 ESA** may be necessary. This phase further evaluates the extent of contamination present, determines risk to human health, and provides for remedial planning if necessary.

Next Steps After an Investigation

Environmental remediation is the process that removes contaminants and pollutants from elements like soil, groundwater, and surface water. There are many technologies and strategies for getting rid of contamination. In determining the remediation needs of your property, ***OES is an industry leader with the experience and patented technology to expedite cleanups*.** We have designed and implemented full-scale remediation systems at contaminated sites using traditional and innovative technologies. Our low overhead means that our environmental services are cost-effective. Our staff stay up to date with regulatory standards and emerging technology to best serve our customers.

Please call **888-584-3386, ext. 118 and ask for Ben** to discuss your needs, get a quote, or schedule a property inspection.

Free Litter Stands Available for Retailers

According to National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS), as part of a joint initiative of Keep America Beautiful and Philip Morris USA, U.S. convenience stores can request free litter stands to collect cigarette butts. For a limited time, litter stands will be delivered to retailers with all materials, hardware and guidance needed for installation. Interested retailers can email litterstands@kab.org with the following information:

Name and contact information (phone and email)
Store name and street address of proposed location
Details about where the receptacle(s) will be placed.

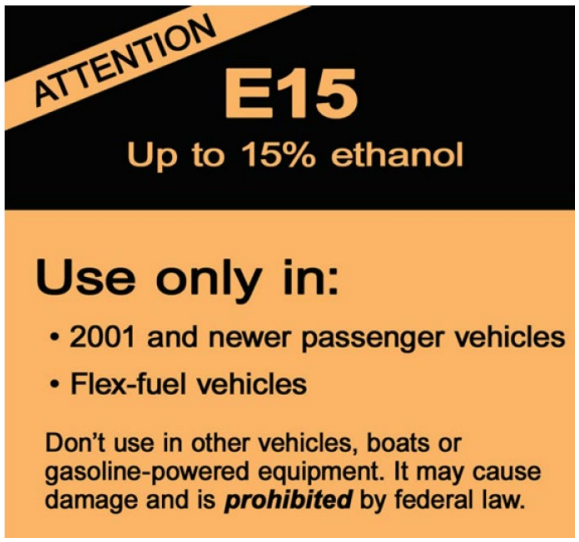
Use this QR code to download a terrific resource: Convenience Store Litter Checklist developed by Keep America Beautiful.

Tornado Season Especially Active in Southern US

This year's tornado season could be more potent than usual throughout the South. Extended-Range Tornado Activity Forecasts (ERTAF) point to a "La Niña climate pattern in the tropical Pacific Ocean" as the reason behind the prediction. Seasonal tornados are driven by La Niña weather patterns. Right now, the equatorial waters off the coast of Peru and Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean are very cold, and the atmosphere, especially in the wake of the recent historic temperatures (central U.S.) is more classic La Niña. In the past, that translates to higher tornado counts … that tend to favor tornado outbreaks more frequently. With these conditions favoring a significantly higher-than-average activity, experts also note that the tornado season usually starts earlier and spawns more twisters.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has opened a 90-day comment period on a proposed rulemaking to modify or eliminate E15 dispenser labels and loosen underground storage tank (UST) system compatibility requirements.

Current Label for E-15



EPA currently requires fuel dispenser labels for gasoline-ethanol blends of greater than 10 volume percent (vol%) ethanol and up to 15 vol% ethanol (E15). The label was designed to alert consumers to the appropriate and lawful use of the fuel. EPA is co-proposing to either modify the E15 label or remove the label requirement entirely. To facilitate the proper storage of E15 in underground storage tank systems (USTs), EPA is proposing to modify the UST regulations to grant certain allowances for compatibility demonstration for storage of ethanol blends. EPA is also proposing compatibility requirements for future UST installations or component replacements that would ensure compatibility with higher blends of ethanol.

Proposed Label for E-15

Public Hearing: EPA will announce the public hearing information for this proposal in a supplemental Federal Register document.
You may send your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0448, by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal:
http://www.regulations.gov

Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov.
Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0448 in the subject line of the message.

The new rulemaking includes a proposal to meet E15 compatibility requirements if UST tanks, and piping are double wall and use interstitial monitoring. Single wall steel and fiberglass tanks manufactured after July 2005 with fiberglass piping will not have to demonstrate compatibility.