Interpretation of Important Building Policy

Applies to
State Fire Marshal Division inspection personnel and local authority having jurisdiction.

Purpose
To provide for uniform application of provisions relating to the definition of “important building” in 2017 edition of NFPA 58, LP Gas Code, Table 6.4.1.1.

Policy
For the evaluation of separation distances for aboveground LP tanks, a building can be defined as important for a number of reasons:
1. Replacement value
2. Human occupancy
3. Value of the building contents
4. Vital role of its production equipment or business records to a business
5. Effect of the building on product release and fire control activities by firefighters and other emergency responders
6. Effect of a building fire on the tank

The building is considered important if one or more of the five reasons above apply; separation distances of NFPA 58 Table 6.4.1.1 are required.

Effective Nov. 1, 1999
Revised Oct. 7, 2020