2020 EDITION

TANK OUTAGE BENCHMARKING STUDY

BENCHMARKING & PRACTICES STUDY

Are your tank maintenance outcomes competitive?

Asset Performance Networks is launching a tank maintenance study to identify the drivers of high discovery scope during tank outages and best practices for successful tank outage planning and execution. The study will also establish metrics around tank outage performance to provide a definitive baseline for benchmarking and improvement. AP-Networks is actively seeking study participants.

Request the Study Prospectus

Email *tankbenchmarking@ap-networks.com*

The Tank Outage Benchmarking Study Will:

- Identify and understand tank outage practices from the early conceptual planning phase through the post-outage phase
- Assess the impact of these practices on tank outage performance
- Provide participating organizations with Industry average and top quartile metrics
- Identify best practices proven to drive predictable, competitive tank outage performance

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Introduction

Currently, there are no standard Industry performance metrics related to practices and outcomes for above ground storage tank maintenance (i.e., tank outages). Tank outage is an area where high-performance organizations have recognized that a strategic approach and a standardized process can save cost, time, and lost profit opportunity.

Tank outages face a series of challenges, including but not limited to:

- Significant scope growth due to poor internal condition of a tank
- Inherent risks of conducting work within confined spaces
- Increased risk of flammability and explosions during hot repairs

Over the last two decades, Industry has adopted formal planned turnaround work processes. As data collected and analyzed by Asset Performance Networks (AP-Networks) shows, companies that implement mature work processes are better equipped to successfully execute turnarounds, and therefore consistently achieve more predictable and competitive outcomes. This, however, is not the case for storage tanks, which have often been mismanaged assets with a history of late permitting and material ordering, and a generalized lack of urgency.

Over time, the responsibility for corrective maintenance and tank outages has been shifting more and more to the scheduled turnaround group. However, the tools and processes used to plan and execute these outages have not always been adapted accordingly. In the best case scenarios, companies have been using their turnaround work processes to execute tank outages, with little information about the implications, challenges, and opportunities missed as a result.

Objectives

The Tank Outage Benchmarking Study will allow participants to better understand how the overall industry conducts tank outages, as well as the maturity level, compared to plant turnarounds, of the processes currently used. Additionally, the study will assess what challenges are faced, what practices are used, and how these practices correlate with performance outcomes. Most importantly, the study will determine Industry average and top quartile performance metrics so that each participant can use the study results to define a baseline for comparison and continuous improvement purposes.

Confidentiality agreements will protect participant data. The data collected will be evaluated and benchmarked using the AP-Networks Turnaround Database.

Prior Research

In 2016, AP-Networks conducted the first tank outage work process research, which identified that tank programs have annual activities and tank-specific activities not accounted for in a general turnaround work process. Moreover, this research suggested that tank-specific work processes are not yet widely used among Industry, leaving significant opportunities untapped. It is important to further understand this segment of the turnaround industry to identify improvement areas.