

# Book Review ----

## New API Recommended Practice on Portable Building Siting

In June 2007, the American Petroleum Institute (API) issued a new recommended practice that provides guidance for reducing the risk to personnel located in portable buildings from hazards due to explosions, fires and toxic releases.

The **Recommended Practice (RP) 753- Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Portable Buildings** was developed in response to new data and information about the use of trailers at refineries, including information gained from the investigation of the Texas City refinery tragedy.

There are four objectives for RP 753:

1. Provide guidance on the safe placement of portable buildings
2. Minimize the presence of personnel in refinery process areas
3. Minimize the use of occupied portable buildings in refinery and process areas
4. Construct and install these buildings or trailers to better protect occupants.

As mentioned above, this new recommended practice provides guidance for reducing the risk to personnel located in portable buildings from hazards due to explosions, fires and toxic releases.

Guidance is provided based on the following principles:

- Locate personnel away from covered process areas consistent with safe and effective operations.
- Minimize the use of occupied portable buildings in close proximity to covered process areas.
- Manage the occupancy of portable buildings, especially during periods of increased risk including unit start-up or planned shut-down operations.
- Design, construct, install, and maintain occupied portable buildings to protect occupants against potential hazards.
- Manage the use of portable buildings as an integral part of the design, construction, maintenance and operations of a facility.

Copies of API RP 753, First Edition, may be purchased for US \$125.00 each.

For more information on API RP 753, please visit

[www.api.org/cat](http://www.api.org/cat)

or

<http://www.api.org/Publications/new/rp-753.cfm>

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