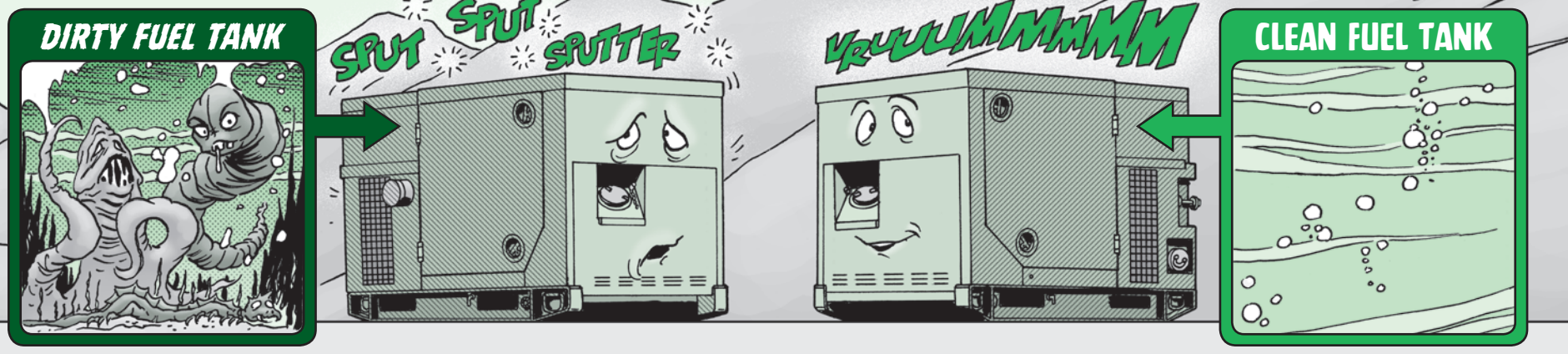
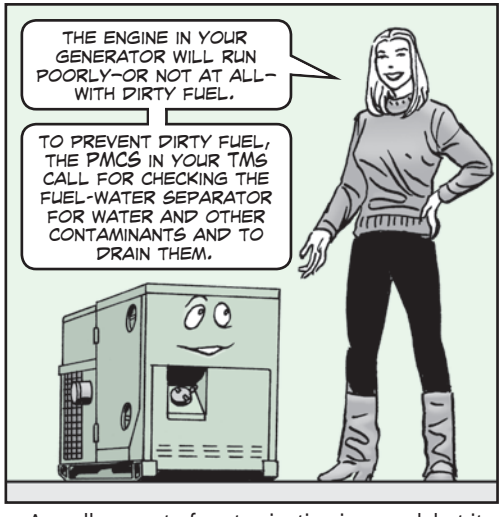
Clean Fuel is the Only Way They'll Go!





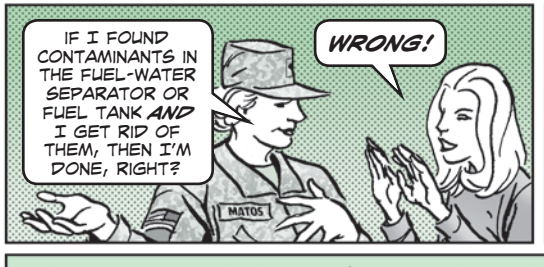
A small amount of contamination is normal, but it needs to be removed just the same. If contaminants are not removed, they'll accumulate in the bottom of your fuel tank. You won't know it right away because the fuel pick-up tube for your fuel system is a few inches above the tank bottom and the fuel will float on top of most contaminants.

The problem becomes noticeable when the contaminant level rises to the level of the pick-up tube. By then, you have severely contaminated fuel!

In a diesel system, fuel transfer pumps, injection pumps and fuel injectors have parts that rely upon lubrication. Water and other contaminants can permanently damage these parts.

Most TMs don't tell you to check generator fuel tank contaminant levels. But anytime you find water or other contaminants in the fuel-water separator or the fuel system filter sump, here's what to do:

- Open the fuel tank drain cock and drain a small amount of fuel into a container that will let you see the fuel. Close the drain cock.
- Water contamination will appear as various-sized beads in the container bottom. If contaminants or water appear in your sample, continue drawing samples of the fuel until they no longer show contamination. Then, close the drain cock. Handle the drained fuel as hazardous waste and recycle it as prescribed by your SOP.
- Change the fuel filter at the recommended PMCS interval. The filter elements accumulate contaminants that can't always be seen or measured.



That contamination had to come from somewhere and you need to find out where. It could be a fuel truck or an external fuel tank or anything else in your fuel pumping chain. Get other users to help you. It's in their best interest to find the source of the contamination, too.