

Fact Sheet for Tank Removal and Cleanup

Petroleum Hydrocarbon Underground Storage Tank System Removal and Responsibilities

This describes some of the various governmental agencies and individuals responsibilities when a facility's tanks, sumps, and/or piping are removed or closed in-place. It also briefly describes the facility owner's responsibility to investigate and cleanup the site if any pollution is found in samples collected from beneath the tanks, sumps, and/or piping.

The County Health Department or local fire department with jurisdiction of hazardous materials permitting oversees the removal and in-place closure of underground tanks and piping. The hazardous materials (local agency) inspector directs the required soil and/or groundwater sampling. The inspector may also request or recommend contaminant removal such as overexcavation or free product removal. The inspector then determines if an Unauthorized Release Form should be filed with the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board).

The District may request additional testing of soils and groundwater, when contamination is found during the required sampling. The District oversees investigation and cleanup of sites with underground storage tank (UST) contamination of fuel and other petroleum hydrocarbons in Santa Clara County. Guidance documents for fuel leak investigation and cleanup actions are available through the District at (408) 265-2607, extension 2638.

The parties involved in cases of petroleum hydrocarbon UST releases and their responsibilities are listed below:

Responsible Party (RP)

- The tank owner/operator is responsible for compliance with applicable regulations concerning closure of USTs and demonstrating that an unauthorized release has not occurred.
- Any tank owner/operator or property owner during or after a release occurs or is discovered meets the definition of an RP.
- RPs are responsible for reporting soil or groundwater contamination as a result of an unauthorized release to the local agency, District, and Regional Board.
- RPs are responsible for investigation and cleanup of contamination in soil and groundwater.
- RPs are responsible for providing sampling results and technical reports to the Regional Board and the District.

Fire Departments and/or County Health Department (local agency)

- Permits and oversees tank, sump, and piping removal and/or in-place closure and initial sample collection.
- Reports unauthorized releases to the County, Regional Board, and the District.
- Should receive notification of possible explosion hazards during various cleanup activities such as aboveground bioremediation or aeration.
- County Health Department must be notified to register sites where acutely hazardous chemicals will be used or stored (RMPP Registration) or where a Proposition 65 violation has occurred.

Santa Clara Valley Water District
(408) 265-2607, extension 2638

- Provides oversight and guidance concerning groundwater investigation and cleanup of UST sites contaminated by fuel in Santa Clara County.
- Certifies completion of investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater pollution cases.

Regional Water Quality Control Board
(510) 286-1255

- Provides enforcement when investigation or cleanup is not being done as requested by the District or the Regional Board.
- Provides oversight and guidance concerning groundwater investigation and cleanup of UST sites contaminated by fuel in Santa Clara County.
- Responsible for reviewing and approving permits to discharge treated water to surface waters.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
UST Cleanup Fund

- Reviews and accepts applications for funds for UST cleanup reimbursement.
- Provides money, through reimbursement, for investigation and cleanup of sites with contamination from petroleum USTs.
- Requires RPs to be in compliance with the District's requests in order to receive reimbursement money.

District Attorney

- Provides enforcement when investigation or cleanup is not being done as requested by the District or the Regional Board.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District
(415) 771-6000

- Provides guidance and regulations for prevention of air emissions from aboveground soil and groundwater treatment systems and open excavation pits.
- Must be notified prior to tank removal.
- Should be notified if aboveground soil treatment is being planned.

California EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control
(510) 540-2122

- Provides guidance for innovative soil treatment and disposal options contact:
DHS, Innovative Technologies
(916) 324-2442
- Should be notified if aboveground soil treatment is being planned contact:
DHS
Toxic Substances Control Division
(510) 540-2122