



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**Fire Prevention Division**

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Policy #: BFP-0019	<b>Underground Storage Tank Removal</b>		
Reviewed and Approved By: Gene Dugal	Title: Fire Marshal	Effective Date: August 1, 2009	Revised Date:

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish information on the requirements for the removal of Underground Storage Tanks (UST).

**POLICY:**

Underground tanks containing flammable or combustible liquids that have been removed from service for one year are considered abandoned. For the purposes of this policy, commercial and residential heating oil tanks are included. All underground tanks that are abandoned must be removed from the ground (Minnesota State Fire Code, Section 3404.2.13).

A completed City of Bloomington Tank and Pipe Installation/Removal Permit is required. Additional requirements can be found within the Bloomington City Code, Section 14.224. These requirements include:

1. Signed City of Bloomington License application and fee.
2. Copy of State License
3. A \$10,000 bond in favor of the City of Bloomington. Bond must state for Flammable Tank Removal. Bonds should be continuous until cancelled.

Underground tanks that have been out of service for a period of 1 year or more are to be removed from the ground. Removal of underground tanks shall be in accordance with the Minnesota State Fire Code:

1. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connected piping.
2. Piping at tank openings which is not used shall be disconnected.
3. Piping shall be removed from the ground.  
Exception: Piping is allowed to be abandoned in place where to fire code official determines that removal is not practical. Abandoned piping shall be capped and safeguarded as required by the code official.
4. Tank openings shall be capped or plugged, leaving a 1/8" to 1/4" diameter opening for pressure equalization.
5. Tanks shall be purged of vapor and made inert prior to removal.
6. All exterior above-grade fill and vent piping shall be permanently removed.  
Exception: Piping associated with bulk plants, terminal facilities and refineries.

Tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

If approved by the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal, an Underground Storage Tank may be abandoned in place; provided the removal of the tank will cause irreversible damage to an adjacent structure such as a foundation or concrete floor. A formal request for approval to abandon an underground storage tank must be submitted to the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal. A tank may not be abandoned in place without the approval of the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal.

When approved by the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal, tanks abandoned in place shall be safeguarded in accordance to the Minnesota State Fire Code, Section 3404.2.13.1.4:

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connected piping.
2. The suction, inlet, gauge, vapor return and vapor lines shall be disconnected.
3. The tank shall be filled completely with an approved inert material. Acceptable materials include cement slurry and polyurethane foam (sand or water are not satisfactory materials).  
Exception: Residential heating oil tanks of 1,100 gallon capacity or less need not be filled with an inert material provided that the fill line is permanently capped or plugged below grade to prevent refilling of the tank.
4. Remaining underground piping shall be capped or plugged.
5. A record of tank size, location and date of abandonment shall be retained. In addition, the property owner is also responsible for notifying the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and local officials (when required) as to the presence of the abandoned tank.