

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) REMOVALS

These guidelines are meant to provide basic information for the most common conditions and situations. In any given occupancy, other fire code requirements may be enforced, these will be addressed by the fire inspector during a site inspection. Questions regarding these procedures can be addressed to the Fire Prevention Center, at (520) 791-4014.

For Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), requirements call (602) 771-4313, additionally ADEQ must be notified in writing thirty days (30) prior to removal to obtain a closure number. The address is:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
UST Section, Inspection & Compliance Unit
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

PERMITS

Permits must be obtained from the City of Tucson Development Services Center at 201 N. Stone Avenue, (520) 791-5550. The permit procedure is a walk through process, weekday mornings before 9:30. To facilitate this process, the following information must be presented:

1. ADEQ closure number
2. Contractors license number and type

TANK PREPARATION

1. UST's must be pumped out to a minimum of 1 to 3 inches of product.
2. All vent piping shall be left intact until tanks are inerted and ready for removal.
3. Tanks shall be inerted prior to removal using either dry ice or gaseous CO₂.
 - a. If dry ice is used, 15 pounds per thousand gallons of tank capacity is required. If fill opening is to be used to insert dry ice, remove the fill line (drop tube) and/or sleeve from the interior of the tank prior to inserting dry ice.
 - b. If gaseous CO₂ is used, 16 pounds per thousand gallon tank capacity is required. CO₂ cylinders shall be bonded to UST(s), and gas shall be introduced SLOWLY so as not to create static build up.
4. Prior to saw cutting or digging, tanks shall be metered by a Tucson Fire Department Hazardous Materials Inspector and must be at an oxygen level of 8% or less.

NOTE: Smoking is prohibited in the removal area.

TANK REMOVAL

1. Blue staking is required prior to beginning the excavation. It is the contractors responsibility to ensure the underground utilities have been located and identified before removal procedures begin.
2. The contractor is required to have a copy of the Fire Departments removal permit on site at all times.
3. Once the tank top has been completely exposed, all lines shall be disconnected and tank openings shall be capped. The contractor shall prevent the leakage of fuel from product lines into the excavation as they are disconnected.
4. Tanks shall **not** be dragged from the excavation. They shall be lifted out by equipment having the lifting capacity to safely lift the tank.
5. Tanks shall not be torn open, ripped open or punctured.
6. The contractor shall utilize a guide rope to facilitate the loading of the tank onto the trailer.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES

1. UST removals are monitored by and scheduled through the Tucson Fire Departments Environmental Services Section. The phone number is (520) 791-4014. A minimum of twenty four (24) hours notice is required for the scheduling of inspections.
2. The tank and excavation will be inspected for any indication of leakage. If leakage is evident it is the owners responsibility to notify ADEQ of a confirmed release (602) 207-4261.
3. Tank openings shall be plugged in a manner so as to limit the internal pressure to under 5 PSI.
4. The fire inspector shall upon request, be furnished with copies of all manifest relating to hazardous waste removed from the site.
5. The vehicle transporting the tanks shall be properly placarded.

SAMPLING

1. It is the contractors responsibility to ensure that sampling is conducted in an approved manner and that samples are taken to a certified laboratory.
2. A copy of the analytical testing results within the required holding time must be faxed or mailed directly to the fire inspector in charge of the removal. Our Fire Prevention Section Office is located at 797 E. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85713 and our fax number is (520) 791-5346.