

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS AWARENESS

Purpose

The purpose of this Bulletin is to alert owners and operators of underground storage tanks (USTs) to compliance violations that are considered to be especially serious by the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (EMD).

Issue

While there are several operational requirements specified in state regulations and statutes that require compliance, EMD is especially concerned with the following violations that pose potentially very significant threats to the environment:

- **Tampering or adjusting monitoring system components that would render the system ineffective in detecting leakage at the earliest possible time. Some examples include: raising sensors or mechanically preventing the flapper valve to close.**
- **Failure to conduct required tests such as annual monitoring certification, secondary containment test, and, if applicable, corrosion tests.**
- **Failure to correct reported system failures in a timely manner or to initiate such corrections without a valid permit. One example would be an indication of a secondary containment leak.**
- **Failure to report a release to the environment.**
- **Failure to install required equipment or systems. An example would be the failure to install an under dispenser containment system.**

Non-compliant UST system construction. An example of this would be a UST system does not meet 1998 UST upgrade requirements.

What This Means To You

If you know or suspect that your facility is noncompliant with any of the six violations listed above, you must take immediate corrective action or be subject to possible severe enforcement measures. We strongly urge all UST owners or operators to promptly take the necessary steps to assure compliance with all statutory and regulatory requirements. These measures include, but are not limited to:

- Checking monitoring system probes for proper placement.
- Scheduling and completing all required testing within regulatory deadlines.
- Promptly applying for any required permit and then repairing all non-functioning UST system components.
- Timely notification to EMD in the event of a release to the environment.
- Promptly applying for any required permit(s) and then installing all required equipment or systems in compliance with current design standards.

For More Information Or Assistance

If you have any questions concerning the compliance status of your UST system, you can contact your EMD District Specialists listed on your most recent inspection report. If you are unsure about the identity of your EMD Specialist, call Anthony Chu at (916) 875-8405 or Elise Rothschild at (916) 875-8473.

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