Underground Motor Fuel Storage Tanks
What to Do After a Flood

If an underground motor fuel storage tank system has been involved in a flood, there are certain measures that tank owners should take to safely return the system to operation, but only after flood waters have receded and local officials have allowed re-entry.

NOTE: You may need to retain a contractor to undertake some of the actions listed below. If you are unfamiliar with any of the system components or procedures listed, DEC recommends that you contact a tank contractor for assistance.

Actions to Be Taken Before System Startup

☐ Make sure that the power has been turned off to any tank system equipment (such as dispensers, pumps, leak detection equipment, etc).

☐ Determine whether product has leaked from the tank system by inspecting areas around the tank, including any secondary containment, sumps, and under-dispenser containment.

☐ Inspect the tank cover pad for damage that may indicate possible tank movement. (If the tank cover pad is damaged, have a tank contractor evaluate the tank system for damage.)

☐ Determine whether water or debris has entered the tank system by using a gauging stick and water-finding paste.

☐ If water is detected in the bottom of a tank storing ethanol-blended gasoline, test the fuel in the tank to ensure that it meets fuel quality standards.

☐ After inspecting the electrical system for damage, return power to the tank system. (If there is cause for concern, contact a tank contractor or electrician.)

☐ Check critical safety devices (such as shear valves, stop switches, isolation relays on dispensers, etc) for proper operation.

☐ Check the leak detection system for proper operation. Restart leak detection as soon as possible after the flood.

☐ Check all other equipment (including pumps, fill pipes, and vent lines) to ensure that is undamaged. Inspect vent lines for movement and cracking.
☐ Empty and clean spill buckets and sumps (including those underneath dispensers, as well as on top of tanks). Inspect piping and fittings for damage and possible leaks.

☐ If there is any concern about the tightness of a tank system, perform a tank system tightness test to ensure integrity prior to adding product.

Actions to Be Taken At System Startup

☐ The tank system may be returned to service even if the leak detection system is inoperable, as long as there is no indication that the tank system is leaking. Daily inventory control and reconciliation (including measuring for the presence of water on the tank bottom) may be used as an interim leak detection method while waiting for the leak detection system to be repaired. If there is an inventory loss or recurring accumulation of water, the tank system must be taken out-of-service until it has been tested to ensure that it is tight.

Actions to Be Taken as Soon as Practicable

☐ Test spill buckets and sumps to ensure that they are tight.

☐ Test cathodic protection (if present) to ensure that it is working properly.

☐ If water has entered the interstitial spaces of tanks or product lines, the interstitial spaces must be drained and flushed.

☐ If there is no leak detection system installed, perform a tank system tightness test to ensure integrity (if it was not performed in earlier steps).

☐ Test all components of leak detection systems (such as electronic monitoring consoles, line leak detectors, sensors, etc) for functionality and operability.

For more information:

USEPA Underground Storage Tank Flood Guide
(available online at: http://www.epa.gov/oust/pubs/ustfloodguide.pdf)
WHERE CAN I GET HELP WHEN I NEED IT?

The map below provides the names of the bulk storage and spill response contacts for each region. Also provided are the contacts in the 5 delegated counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Rockland, Westchester, and Cortland. Should you have a question, comment or suggestion, please contact the person whose name is listed below.

ABBREVIATION KEY
PBS - Petroleum Bulk Storage
CBS - Chemical Bulk Storage
MOSF - Major Oil Storage Facility
RSE - Regional Spill Engineer

REGION 6
Gary McCullouch - RSE
Ron Novak - PBS, CBS, MOSF
State Office Building
317 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601-3787
(315) 785-2513
(Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis
Oneida, St. Lawrence)

REGION 5
Russ Mulvey - PBS, CBS, MOSF
Russell Huyck - RSE
Route 86, P.O. Box 296
Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296
(518) 897-1241 or 1242
(Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton,
Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, Washington)

REGION 8
Tim Walsh - PBS, CBS, MOSF
6274 East Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-8519
(585) 226-2466
(Chenango, Genesee, Livingston,
Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler,
Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates)

REGION 4 (Schenectady)
Dan Lightsey - PBS, CBS, MOSF
Keith Goertz - RSE
1130 North Westcott Road
Schenectady, NY 12306
(518) 357-2045
(Albany, Columbia, Greene, Montgomery,
Rensselaer, Schenectady)

REGION 9
Andrea Skalski - CBS, PBS, MOSF
Greg Sutton - RSE
270 Michigan Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14203-2999
(716) 851-7220
(Allegany, Cattaraugus,
Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara,
Wyoming)

REGION 1
Nick Acampora - MOSF
Hugh Cirrito - CBS
Leszek Zielinski - PBS, CBS,
and MOSF
Karen Gomez - RSE
SUNY Campus
50 Circle Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-3408
(631) 444-0320
(Nassau**, Suffolk*)

REGION 3
Michelle Tipple - PBS, CBS, and MOSF
John O’Mara - RSE (845) 256-3121
21 South Putt Corners Road
New Paltz, NY 12561-1696
(845) 256-3121
(Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland*,
Sullivan, Ulster, Westchester*)

REGION 7
Kevin Kemp - PBS, CBS, and MOSF
Dick Brazell - RSE
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204-2400
(315) 426-7519 or 7400
(Broome, Cayuga, Chenango,
Cortland*, Madison, Onondaga,
Oswego, Tioga, Tompkins)

REGION 2
Leszek Zielinski - PBS, CBS,
and MOSF
Randy Austin - RSE
One Hunters Point Plaza
1st Floor
47-40 21st Street
L. I. City, NY 11101-5407
(718) 482-6454
(Bronx, Kings, New York,
Queens, Richmond)

DELEGATED COUNTY CONTACTS
Nassau County DOH – Robin Putnam (516) 227-9434
Nassau Fire Commission – Frank Dubins (516) 572-1061
Suffolk County DHS – James Meyers (631) 854-2540
Rockland County DOH – Cathy Quinn (845) 364-2617
Cortland County DOH – Joan Guard (607) 753-5035
Westchester DOH – Carlos Torres (914) 813-5161

* PBS Program Delegated to
County Health Department.

** In Nassau County, petroleum tanks connected
to oil burning equipment are regulated by
the Nassau County Department of Health.
All other petroleum tanks are regulated by the
Nassau County Fire Commission.