



## **Out-of-Service Residential Tanks CONTAINING FLAMMABLE OR COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID HEATING FUEL**

April 2011

The International Fire Code (IFC) sets forth requirements for removing out-of-service or abandoning flammable or combustible liquid residential tanks.

**Please note:** The Bellevue Fire Department along with the Department of Ecology does not regulate environmental contamination pertaining to the removal and decommissioning of residential tanks. However, if contamination is suspected a soil sample may be required by the jurisdictional authority.

### **Permits**

Annual Fire Department permits are issued to companies or contractors who remove or permanently decommission tanks. All companies or contractors decommissioning residential tanks within the City of Bellevue must obtain an International Fire Code Institute (IFCI) tank decommissioning certification.

### **Abandonment and Status of Tanks**

Tanks taken out of service shall be removed or safeguarded in accordance with the following:

#### **Underground Tanks Temporarily Out of Service**

Underground tanks temporarily out of service shall have the fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection secure against tampering. Vent lines shall remain open and remain operational.

#### **Underground Tanks Out of Service for 90 Days**

Underground tanks not used for a period of 90 days shall be safeguarded in accordance with all of the following or be removed. (See the "Removal and Disposal" section)

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank.
2. All piping, including fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection, shall

be capped or plugged and secured from tampering.

3. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained.

#### **Underground Tanks Out of Service for One Year**

Underground tanks that have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed from the ground or abandoned in place.

### **Tanks Abandoned in Place**

Tanks abandoned in place shall be as follows:

1. Flammable and 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 solid material.
4. Remaining underground piping shall be capped or plugged.
5. A record of tank size, location and date of abandonment shall be retained.
6. All exterior above-grade fill piping shall be permanently removed when tanks are abandoned or removed.

### **Reinstallation of Underground Tanks**

Tanks which are to be reinstalled for flammable or combustible liquid service shall be in accordance with all applicable provisions of the International Fire Code (IFC), ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, API 12-P, API 1615, UL 58 and UL 1316.

### **Above-Ground Tanks Temporarily Out of Service**

Above-ground tanks temporarily out of service shall have all connecting lines isolated from the tank and be secured against tampering.

**Exception:** In-place fire protection (foam) system lines.

### **Above-Ground Tanks Out of Service for 90 Days**

Above-ground tanks not used for a period of 90 days shall be safeguarded in accordance with the following or removed:

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank.
2. All piping, including fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection, shall be capped or plugged and secured from tampering.
3. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained.

### **Above-Ground Tanks Out of Service for One Year**

Above-ground tanks that have been out of service for a period of one year shall be removed.

### **Removal and Disposal of Tanks**

Removal and disposal of tanks shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connecting piping.
2. Piping at tank openings that is not to be used further shall be disconnected.
3. Piping shall be removed from the ground, unless removal is not practical as determined by the fire code official.
4. Tank openings shall be capped or plugged, leaving a 1/8-inch to 1/4-inch diameter opening for pressure equalization.
5. Tanks shall be purged of vapor and inerted prior to removal.
6. All exterior above-grade fill and vent piping shall be permanently removed.