

Underground Storage Tank Program Update

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NUMBER of UST SYSTEMS IN STANISLAUS COUNTY

- * Presently there are:**
- * 628 Total USTs in Stanislaus County**
- * 182 Double-Wall UST Systems**
- * 31 Single Wall UST Systems**
- * 244 Total UST Systems**
- * Of the 244 Total UST facilities 46 are considered contaminated, and are “open” in the County’s Mitigation Program.**

CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTIONS

Practically every person associated with USTs is to be Certified by the State or the product manufacturer.

UST Inspectors initially take an exam to receive their International Code Council Certification (ICC) as a UST Inspector. This Certification is good for a period of 2 years, and the inspector can either take the exam or complete at least 16 hours of UST classes or training to recertify. Those who are *Designated Operators* for a facility must retake the exam every 2 years. Those who install, repair and test UST Systems, not only must retake the ICC exam for Service Repairman or installer, they also; must have a current Certification from the Manufacturer of the components they may either make repairs on, and/or test.

INSPECTIONS AND COMPLIANCE

Unlike the Hazardous Materials Business Plan Program – Where the inspections are performed every 3 years; the UST facilities are inspected annually. The plan review process for a UST facility Inspection can be quite extensive. The inspector normally reviews data regarding the Permit to Operate, Tank Owner, Financial Responsibility for the tanks, Testing Requirements, and the current Designated Operator; to name a few items.

The most common violations found at a typical UST facility Inspection include the following:

- 1) The Financial Responsibility and Letter from Chief Financial Officer forms are not submitted annually, and have expired.**
- 2) The signed “Owner / Operator” agreement between the UST facility owner and who they have contracted with to be their Designated Operator is not current and should be renewed; when the Designated Operator renews their ICC Certification, or a new form be submitted with a change to a new Designated Operator.**
- 3) Occasionally the UST testing or repairs are late by 30 days.**

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

The UST Systems found in Stanislaus County are many and varied.

All USTs are to receive an Annual Monitor Certification ; where by all the components of their alarm system is tested and certified.

All components of a system's Secondary Containment are tested once every 3 years – unless the tank system was installed after July 1, 2004; which required all secondary systems to be monitored by vacuum, under pressure, or by a liquid (brine solution).

* Testing cont.

- * Those systems which are composed of a Single -Walled Steel tank with an epoxy interior lining also require the tanks to be:
 - * Precision tested to confirm that they are “tight”.
 - * Cathodic Protection Testing (establishment of an electro-magnetic field surrounding the tank system) which prevents rust from forming on the tanks.
 - * A 5 year recertification of the tank’s interior lining. (Initially good for 10 years and inspected every 5 years there after).

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR UST OWNERS

- * As you are all aware that the State of California through the California Environmental Protection Agency, is now requiring an annual electronic submittal of information regarding your facility. In the case of the UST Program; this process may be somewhat intimidating as there are many forms to be submitted . Without going into great detail, our Department not only recommends that you attend one of our workshops, but we also advise you to spend time with both your Designated Operator and your Tank Testers to make sure that all of your information is current for both, prior to your submittal. As always; if you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Dept., at 209-525-6700, or your District Inspector.**
- * You can also find more information regarding the CERS Program at:**
- * stancounty.com/er/hazardous-materials.shtm**