

PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE

APRIL 3, 2020



FIR 7.01 - ABANDONED FLAMMABLE LIQUID STORAGE TANKS

I. SCOPE

- A. This policy is established January 4, 1991.
- B. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the safeguarding of removal of abandoned flammable liquid storage tanks.
- C. This policy applies within all areas in which Portland Fire & Rescue has fire prevention authority. **Exception:** This policy does not apply to single-family residences.
- D. A storage tank is considered abandoned when the owner has shown an intention to abandon the tank accompanied by some act by which the tank is actually abandoned.
- E. Tanks being removed or abandoned in place, other than at a single-family residence, shall require a permit from the Portland Fire Marshal's Office.

II. SPECIFIC

- A. References
 - 1. 2016 Portland Fire Code

III. GUIDANCE

- A. A tank is considered abandoned when:
 - 1. It is observed that that tank has not been used in more than a year.
 - 2. Dispensing equipment has been removed.
Note: The transfer of flammable liquids is illegal without fixed dispensers.
 - 3. The State of Oregon, Weights and Measures verifies the tank has not been used.
 - 4. The business or structure is gone.
- B. All tanks taken out of service must be abandoned under benefit of permit in one of the following ways:
 - 1. **Underground tanks temporarily out of service for 90 days:** Underground tanks not used for a period of 90 days shall be safeguarded in accordance with all the following or be removed.
 - a. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank.

- b. All piping, including tank fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection, shall be capped or plugged and secured from tampering.
 - c. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained.
2. **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.
 3. **Underground tanks abandoned in place:**
 - a. Flammable and combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connected piping.
 - b. The suction, inlet, gauge, vapor return and vapor lines shall be disconnected.
 - c. The tank shall be filled completely with an approved inert solid material.
 - d. Remaining underground piping shall be capped or plugged.
 - e. A record of tank size, location and date of abandonment shall be retained.
 - f. All exterior above-grade fill piping shall be permanently removed when tanks are abandoned or removed.
 4. **Aboveground tanks temporarily out of service:** Aboveground tanks temporarily out of service shall have all connecting lines isolated from the tank and be secured against tampering.
 5. **Aboveground tanks not used for a period of 90 days / out of service for 90 days:** Aboveground tanks not used for a period of 90 days shall be safeguarded in accordance with all the following or be removed.
 - a. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank.
 - b. All piping, including tank fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection, shall be capped or plugged and secured from tampering.
 - c. Vent lines shall remain open and be maintained.
 6. **Aboveground 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 from the ground.



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