



National Park Service Commercial Services Program Fuel Storage Management Underground Storage Tanks



Fuel Storage Management

There are several ways to store bulk fuel, including in underground storage tanks (USTs). A UST is a tank and any underground piping connected to the tank that has at least 10 percent of its combined volume underground. USTs are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the regulations in 40 CFR 280, and USTs may need to follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Clean Water Act requirements. USTs may also need to comply with additional or EPA-authorized state regulations as well as various consensus standards.

Tank Requirements

- All tanks must:
 - Be registered with state or local authorities.
 - Include required signage on safety precautions, such as “No Smoking” signs and content/danger placards, and physical barriers to prevent impacts or tampering.
- Maintain the UST in accordance with the manufacturer recommended maintenance and routine testing of tank and pipe systems.
- Conform to tank and tank system construction requirements including protective coatings, vents, warning systems, floating prevention, etc.
- When permanently closing USTs, facilities must meet closure requirements

UST Construction Requirements

- USTs and associated piping must be constructed with corrosion prevention systems and/or coatings. Maintenance of corrosion protective systems and coatings is required.
- Appropriate secondary containment is required for tanks installed or replaced after April 2016.

Tank Operator Training:

- Facilities with USTs must have designated and trained Class A, B and C operators.
- Class A and B operators must be retrained when UST system is not compliant.

Recordkeeping Requirements

- Records must be kept for tank registration, notifications, inspections, repairs, releases, and others.
- Operator training records must be kept, including names, dates, and types of training.

UST Equipment Requirements

- USTs must have release detection equipment which is properly installed, calibrated, and maintained.
 - Detection method must be compliant with inventory control, tightness testing, vapor monitoring, and other requirements.
 - Tank release monitoring checks must be performed at least once every 30 days.
 - Release detection equipment must be tested annually.
- Facilities must use, maintain, and inspect spill and overfill prevention equipment, including alarms, flow restrictors, containment sumps, and others.

SPILLS AND RELEASES

Suspected releases must be investigated immediately.

Please note, this fact sheet does not cover all requirements and situations related underground storage tanks. In addition to checking federal regulations, be sure to check your state and local regulations. For any operational questions or emergency situations, please contact your park concession specialist. For more information pertaining to compliance with emergency planning and reporting requirements, please email cs_envaudits@nps.gov or contact the applicable regulatory authority.