

# Tank Tips 9

*on Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations*

## Reporting a spill

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*Under Environment Canada's new Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations you are required to notify your regional spill centre of all releases. For releases of 100 litres or more, you must also follow up the initial notification with a written report. If you have had a spill or a leak and need to know whether it must be reported, and how and when to do so, this fact sheet will provide you with the information and contacts you need.*

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It has often been assumed that contaminants left on or under the ground will stay there. This has been shown to be wishful thinking.

### **What has changed?**

On June 25, 2008 Environment Canada put in place new regulations governing storage tank systems for petroleum products and allied petroleum products that are under federal jurisdiction as described in the regulations, including privately owned tanks located on federal and Aboriginal land. Compliance with these regulations is mandatory.

If you have a release, under the *Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations* you are now required to call your regional spill-notification centre as soon as possible. For releases of 100 litres or more, you must then follow up with a written report to Environment Canada.

### **What is a spill?**

For the purposes of these regulations, a spill is defined as any loss of petroleum product or allied petroleum product, in liquid form, from your storage tank system. This includes everything from slow leaks in piping, to catastrophic tank failures, to overflow or discharges in your product transfer area. To be considered a spill, however, the product must escape beyond your system's secondary containment.

### **Do you report all releases?**

Yes. You must notify your regional spill-notification centre of all releases. The telephone numbers are listed below. If you know or suspect that 100 litres or more of your product has been released (i.e. has gone beyond your secondary containment into the environment) then you must also send a written report to Environment Canada as soon as possible, given the circumstances of the spill or leak. The

Once an aquifer is contaminated, it may be unusable for decades. The residence time can be anywhere from two weeks or 10 000 years.

information required in the report (subsection 41(1) of the regulations) and the address for your region are found below.

### When do you report a spill or a leak?

Under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*, (paragraph 212(1)(b)) you must report a release, or the likelihood of a release, as soon as you reasonably can, given the circumstances. Your first priority is to take all reasonable measures to protect the environment and public safety, prevent or eliminate any dangerous condition, and minimize any danger to the environment or to human life or health. As soon as you have done this, however, you must report the release to the Notification Reception Service in your province or territory. This service is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and the numbers are listed below.

It is important to remember that the sooner we know about the release, the more we can help you in your effort to contain the damage, and by reducing the impact of the spill you also reduce your clean-up costs.

### How do you report a release?

For the initial notification, call the number for your region listed below.

Region	Emergency Number
Alberta	780-422-4505 1-800-222-6514*
British Columbia	1-800-663-3456
Manitoba	204-944-4888
New Brunswick	902-426-6030 1-800-565-1633*
Newfoundland and Labrador	709-772-2083 1-800-563-9089*
Northwest Territories	867-920-8130
Nova Scotia	902-426-6030 1-800-565-1633*
Nunavut	867-920-8130
Ontario	416-325-3000 1-800-268-6060
Prince Edward Island	902-426-6030 1-800-565-1633*
Quebec	514-283-2333 1-866-283-2333*
Saskatchewan	1-800-667-7525
Yukon	867-667-7244

\*Telephone number accessible in province/region.

Petroleum products released to the environment migrate through soil via two general pathways: (1) as bulk oil flow infiltrating the soil under the forces of gravity and capillary action, and (2) as individual compounds separating from the bulk petroleum mixture and dissolving in air or water.

If your release is 100 litres or more, you are required to follow up the initial notification with a written report containing the following information (subsection 41(1)):

- the names of both the owner and operator of the storage tank system
- the identification number of the storage tank system
- the date on which the spill occurred or the leak was discovered
- the type of each petroleum product or allied petroleum product that was released
- the quantity of each petroleum product or allied petroleum product that was released or, if you can't determine the quantity, your best estimate of it
- a description of the circumstances of the spill and any measures you've taken to reduce its impact on the environment and public health and safety
- a description of the measures you've taken following the spill to prevent another occurrence.

The report must be sent by mail or fax to the manager of inspections in your region at the address below.

***Pacific and Yukon Region***

Manager of Inspection Program  
Environment Canada  
201-401 Burrard Street (4<sup>th</sup> floor)  
Vancouver BC V6C 3S5  
Fax: 604-666-9059

***Prairie and Northern Region***

Manager of Inspection Program  
Environment Canada  
Twin Atria Building  
4999-98<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW Room 200  
Edmonton AB T6B 2X3  
Fax: 780-495-2451

***Ontario Region***

Manager of Inspection Program  
Environment Canada  
845 Harrington Court  
Burlington ON L7N 3P3  
Fax: 905-333-3952

***Quebec Region***

Manager of Inspection Program  
Environment Canada  
105 McGill Street (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)  
Montreal QC H2Y 2E7  
Fax: 514-496-2087

**Atlantic Region**

Manager of Inspection Program  
 Environment Canada  
 Queen Square  
 45 Alderney Drive  
 Dartmouth NS B2Y 2N6  
 Fax: 902-426-7924

**Where do you get more information?**

On our website: [www.ec.gc.ca/st-rs](http://www.ec.gc.ca/st-rs). If you'd like us to mail you the information below please call: 819-934-2991 (0900h – 1700h EST/EDT)

The following documents are available on our website:

- *Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations*
- *Tank Tips* fact sheets, each one covering a specific part of the new regulations
- *Environmental Code of Practice for Aboveground and Underground Storage Tank Systems Containing Petroleum and Allied Petroleum Products*, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
- *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy for the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*

If you have specific questions on the regulations please contact your regional office.

Pacific & Yukon	<a href="mailto:greenlane.pyr@ec.gc.ca">greenlane.pyr@ec.gc.ca</a>	604-664-9100
Prairie & Northern		780-951-8600
Ontario	<a href="mailto:EnvirolInfo.Ontario@ec.gc.ca">EnvirolInfo.Ontario@ec.gc.ca</a>	416-739-4826
Quebec	<a href="mailto:quebec.lavoieverte@ec.gc.ca">quebec.lavoieverte@ec.gc.ca</a>	800-463-4311
Atlantic	<a href="mailto:15th.reception@ec.gc.ca">15th.reception@ec.gc.ca</a>	902-426-7231

*This material has been prepared for convenience of reference and accessibility and does not have an official character. It is of a general nature only. For all purposes of interpreting and applying the regulations, users must consult the official version of the Storage Tank Systems for Petroleum Products and Allied Petroleum Products Regulations.*