



Compliance Advisory

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Compliance & Enforcement #2021-10 Issued: 09/03/2021

DEP Guidance and Recommendations for Restarting Fuel Tank Operations after Flooding

WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS ADVISORY?

All facilities with Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) that have been flooded, including Gasoline Service Stations and sites with emergency generators fueled by an UST.

WHY IS DEP ADDRESSING FUELING FACILITIES?

With recent widespread flooding in parts of the State, a significant amount of underground storage tank facilities (primarily gasoline service stations) that store and distribute fuel may have been disabled. The flood water, loss of power and storm damage may have compromised the facilities ability to store and dispense fuel safely.

WHAT IS DEP DOING?

DEP is recommending that any facility that has been flooded follow the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) [UST Flood Guide](#), below.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

It is recommended UST facility owners and operators at minimum take the following actions after flood waters recede. Note that this list is not intended to be a complete checklist; additional details are given in USEPA's Flood Guide. In general, after severe flooding, serious consideration should be given to having a system test similar to a test done for a new installation completed by a competent technician. All suggestions may not necessarily be applicable to every facility or situation and therefore may not be required.

Before bringing an UST system back into service:

- Make sure the power is off. Check electrical system for continuity and shorts (pumps, turbines, dispensers, emergency shutoff, panel box, etc.)
- Remove all debris and water from the concrete pad and inspect the concrete pad for any indication of tank movement or shifting.
 - If damaged, have a contractor evaluate the entire UST system.
- Check critical safety devices (e.g., shear valves, stop switches, isolation relays on dispensers, etc.)
- Inspect UST system components, such as visible piping, isolation boots or seals, spill buckets, secondary and under-dispenser containment and sumps for leaks or damage.
 - Clean out and properly dispose of any water or liquids present in containment areas.

Compliance Advisory

- Measure the product and water levels in each tank. (Any discrepancy with pre-flood levels should be investigated.)
 - Remove any water and debris (due to surface infiltration) from tanks and ensure the remaining product is suitable for use.

Bringing an UST system back into service:

- Return power and have a technician inspect for proper operation.
 - Check all UST system electrical and monitoring equipment for proper operation.
- Inspect vent lines for movement and cracking; ensure that the vent is working properly.
- If installed, check the cathodic protection system for proper operation.
- Test and replace all damaged or inoperable spill buckets and containment sumps, if used for interstitial monitoring, prior to using the UST system.
- Clean and lubricate shear valves before resetting them.
- Be alert for unusual operating conditions such as slow dispensing of fuel, frequent alarms, customer complaints, or equipment shutdowns.

DO NOT receive new product until UST system integrity is proven.

DO NOT assume everything is okay because water didn't actually flood over the facility or tank area. The water table could have risen and caused problems.

If product loss has occurred, immediately notify the Department hotline 1-877-Warn DEP (1-877-927-6337).

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

During Business Hours:

NJDEP Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Compliance and Enforcement 609-633-1205

Northern Region: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union, and Warren Counties

Contact - Kevin Marlowe, Supervisor 609-439-9589

kevin.marlowe@dep.nj.gov

Southern Region: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem Counties

Contact – Kristina Lenoir, Supervisor 609-221-3996

kristina.lenoir@dep.nj.gov

Non-Business Hours: 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The following websites can be accessed for additional information:

Bureau of Underground Storage Tanks Compliance & Enforcement:

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/enforcement/ust.html>

Compliance Advisory

USEPA Underground Storage Tank Flood Guide: <https://www.epa.gov/ust/underground-storage-tank-flood-guide>

To comment on this compliance advisory visit: <https://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/survey.html>

Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of Department requirements. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance, please contact an Enforcement number listed above.