



CRANBROOK FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Out of Service Underground Fuel Storage Tanks

This Public Safety Notice is to advise of a Cranbrook Fire & Emergency Services policy change respecting out of service underground fuel storage tanks.

Previous editions of the British Columbia Fire Code provided a Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner the responsibility and authority for installation, removal and abandonment in place for all underground fuel storage tanks. This policy change applies specifically to underground fuel tanks and associated piping that were utilized for oil burning equipment. This essentially would include all residential fuel storage tanks. The scope within Part 4 of the British Columbia Fire Code states "This Part shall not apply to appliances and their ancillary equipment within the scope of CAN/CSA-B139, Installation Code for Oil Burning Equipment. " The exemption within the scope negates a Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner's (LAFC) enforcement authority relating to fuel storage tanks utilized for oil burning equipment. As a result, a Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner no longer has the authority to enforce the removal of underground fuel storage tanks used for oil burning equipment.

The British Columbia Fire Code states that it is the owner's responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the Code, therefore, it is the owner's choice to remove, abandon in place or temporarily take out of service their fuel storage tanks using good engineering practice.

Examples of good engineering practices are listed in the appendix of the British Columbia Fire Code and include Annex 'C' of NFPA 30 - Flammable Combustible Liquids Code and Part 9 of the Environmental Code of Practice. Copies Annex 'C' of NFPA 30 and Part 9 of the Environmental Code of Practice have been reproduced and will be made available to the public upon request.

Please be aware that the requirements within Article 4.3.1.5. of the British Columbia Fire Code - Out of Service Storage Tanks – still apply to gasoline and diesel tanks utilized at fuel dispensing and service stations.

Cranbrook Fire & Emergency Services will now respond to enquiries, respecting out of service fuel storage tanks used for fuel fired appliances (residential fuel storage tanks), by advising that we are no longer the authority having jurisdiction for out of service tanks. Staff will advise persons making enquiries to contact the Ministry of Environment to ascertain if they have any regulatory requirements.