



CRANBROOK FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Out of Service Underground Residential Fuel Storage Tanks

This Information Bulletin is intended to clarify Cranbrook Fire & Emergency Services' policy respecting out of service underground 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 CSA-B139 Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment." As a result, the local fire official and the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner no longer have the authority to enforce the removal, or approve the abandonment in place, of underground fuel storage tanks used for oil burning equipment.

Article 4.3.16 of the British Columbia Fire Code (2012 edition) states "The removal, abandonment in place, disposal or temporary taking out of service of an underground storage tank shall be in conformance with good engineering practice. The primary reason for the removal of residential fuel storage tanks and/or the conditions required for abandonment in place is potential environmental impact resulting from corrosion and leakage of out of service tanks. The Fire Code references Part 9 of the Environmental Code of Practice (Environment Canada) (attached) as recognized good engineering practice for withdrawal from service of storage tank systems.

The Fire Code further 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.

Recognizing that out of service residential fuel storage tanks do not present a fire hazard, Cranbrook Fire and Emergency Services does not have the authority or responsibility to enforce, inspect or approve these activities.