

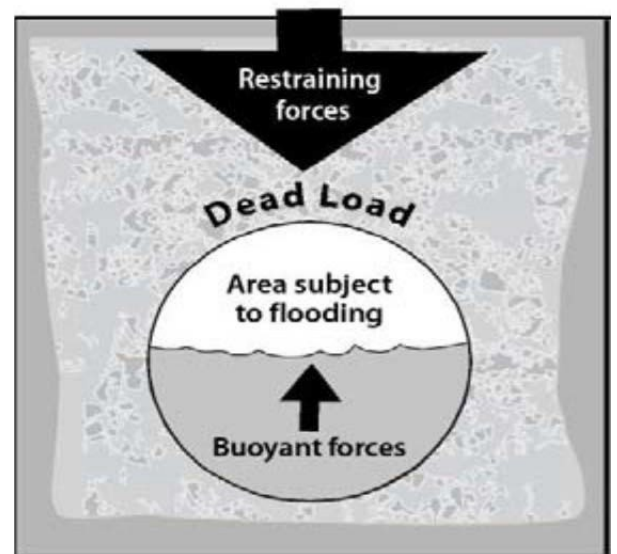


County of Sacramento

PREPARING AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK FOR A FLOOD

What to do if flood waters or rising ground water threatens your underground storage tank?

- ❑ **Determine if you tank is anchored.** Properly anchored tanks are designed to counter the buoyancy effects of flood waters and/ or rising ground water.
- ❑ **Keep the tank one-third to two-thirds full of product.** Filling the tank with product adds weight to the tank so it will not float out of the ground. Do not fill the tank full; at least one-third of the tank should be empty to allow potential flood water that may enter the tank through loose fittings; this will lessen the likely hood of fuel being released into the floodwater. *It is not recommended that the tank be filled with water because disposal of contaminated can be costly.*
- ❑ **Secure all openings on top of the tank.** Make sure fill caps are in good condition and fastened securely in place. Also, check the seal on the plungers in the spill bucket so water cannot get into the tank.
- ❑ **Close or “trip” the shear valve(s).** Most tank piping systems have shear valves. Closing or tripping the shear valve prevents product from getting into the pipeline if a dispenser is knocked over during a disaster.



What to do you after the flood water recedes?

1. **Check the tank(s) for water** using a stick and water finding paste. If there is water have it removed. Even though you may not see water there may still be flood water underground above the tank. Have service technician remove water from spill buckets, containment sumps, UDC's and any other areas of the tank system affected.
2. **Stick the tank every 2 hours and log fuel/ water levels.** If the amount of fuel is decreasing, it must be immediately removed by a licensed contractor.
3. **Tank and line tightness testing should be performed.** During a flooding event, tank systems can shift below the surface causing damage to the UST system. The integrity of the system must be confirmed and approved by the EMD prior to resuming operations.

If you have any questions regarding hazardous waste determination, please contact EMD at (916) 875-8550 and ask to speak with an Environmental Specialist.

The information contained in this (Compliance Assistance Bulletin/Important Notice/Guidance Document) is based upon the statutes and regulations and is intended to provide a basic overview to help achieve compliance. This document does not replace or supersede relevant statutes and regulations and is not intended as legal advice. All interested parties should monitor changes to relevant statutes and regulations for updates.