



EXPECTATIONS FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INSPECTIONS

The San Bernardino County Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Division (Division) following guidelines will assist owners, operators, and contractors in being ready for an UST inspection.

Present Licensing and Certification Documentation. While licensing and certification information is gathered with the application for construction inspections, it also is verified at the time of the inspection. Without documentation of appropriate contractor's license(s), ICC-certification(s), tank tester license(s), and manufacturer certification(s), we cannot accept the test results as valid for meeting UST requirements.

Notify alarm companies. Verify notification of all parties who need to know that the system is being tested, including alarm companies. Note that your local fire department may bill for responses to false alarms.

Be ready for the inspection. Inspection protocols vary among different jurisdictions. All of the following must be in place to **be ready for a UST inspection from this Division:**

- Station is closed with appropriate traffic controls for testing to commence.
- All sumps and all dispensers are open and ready for visual inspection.
- Line Leak Detector (LLD) tester is set up and ready to demonstrate and test 3gph at 10psi test of LLD.
- All automatic tank gauges are out and ready to test for overfill alarm if an overfill alarm is onsite.
- Spill containers for fill pipes are full of water and ready for annual testing.

Have facility paperwork available. Since the annual UST inspection requires testing of the monitoring components, the annual inspection is done in conjunction with the monitoring certification. **The following paperwork must be onsite, either with the contractor or with the representative of the owner/operator:**

- Alarm History and System Setup Printout
- 3 years of testing results
- UST Maintenance/Repair records
- Release logs & reports
- Hazardous waste disposal records
- Designated Operator checklists
- Certification of Financial Responsibility
- CUPA permits
- Business Emergency/Contingency Plan
- Facility and Tank Forms (Formerly A & B's)
- Monitoring and Response Plan

UST Removals – Be ready to inert and lift out the tank. Follow the removal guidelines, including prior notification of the local fire authority, triple rinsing of the tank, and having the appropriate amount of dry ice on hand. Have appropriate equipment on site – meter(s) for oxygen and LEL, heavy equipment appropriate to the size of the tank(s), and containers and equipment for soil sampling. In this jurisdiction, piping can be removed prior to the inspector arriving as long as the piping trenches remain open and intact for sampling. The inspector witnesses the oxygen and LEL measurements, the placement of dry ice into the tank, the actual removal of the UST(s), and the sampling. The inspector must also receive a photocopy of the manifest for triple rinsate disposal.

Be ready to follow-up with results. All test and sampling results must be submitted to the Division within 30 days of the inspection. If failures occur after an inspector leaves, immediately notify the Division UST clerk to discuss repair requirements with the inspector and arrange any required permits or inspections.

Notify the UST clerk of unusual circumstances. Tell the UST clerk of each test or repair scheduled to be witnessed and indicate circumstances that may require extra time (e.g. numerous sensors at VPH systems, unusual wiring, a number of repairs, a troublesome system). Complete and pretest all repair work 24 hours prior to the scheduled inspection appointment to allow time for cancellation without penalty.