



## Kerrville Fire Marshal

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## Section 8

### Underground Storage Tank Removal

Underground storage tank removal operations shall conform to the International Fire Code 2018, as adopted and amended by City of Kerrville, NFPA 30, Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code, and API Standard 1604.

**Any tank owner, who intends to permanently remove their underground storage tank, must give thirty (30) days prior notice to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).** This must include the proposed procedures and a schedule for removing the tank(s). Further guidance is contained in Texas Administrative Code 31, Chapter 334 and in API 1604.

*This guide does not replace, nor supersede any codes and/or ordinances adopted by the City of Kerrville, or determinations and positions of the Fire Chief or Fire Marshal.*

#### Removal Requirements

1. The area of tank removal shall be barricaded a minimum of 50 ft. from the edge of the tank excavation, as recommended by API.
2. All flammable and/or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tanks and piping, if provided.
3. The On-Site Supervisor shall hold a valid minimum Type B License issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for UST Removals.
4. All liquids shall be removed from the tanks prior to removal from the ground and all connecting piping and/or distribution lines shall be removed. Piping will not be permitted to be abandoned in place.
5. All tank openings shall be capped or plugged with the exception of a pressure equalization hole that shall not be less than 0.125 inch (3.2mm) or more than 0.25 inch (6.4mm).
6. Provide two 20-BC portable fire extinguishers within 50 feet of the tank excavation site.
7. "No smoking" signs shall be posted and readily visible.
8. If the tanks are to be triple rinsed/washed, all rinseate liquid shall be disposed of in an approved manner.
9. The tanks shall be purged to remove all flammable vapors prior to removal. The Fire Marshal's Office allows the following vapor removal methods.
  - a. Use of a diffused air blower or eductor type air blower.
  - b. Vacuum truck operation.
10. The tanks shall be made inert to remove all residual oxygen prior to removal. The Fire Marshal's Office allows the following vapor removal methods.
  - a. Prior to tank removal, all tank openings shall be secured and the tanks shall be purged with dry ice at a ratio of 2 lbs. for every 100 gallons of tank capacity, or as recommended by API 1604.
  - b. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) or Nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) Method: One cubic foot CO<sub>2</sub> or N<sub>2</sub> per gallon of tank capacity. Triple grounding shall be used with compressed cylinders. The cylinder hose shall fit into a non-conductive plug, and will not be allowed to dangle into the UST.
11. All flammable vapors during the inerting or purging process shall be vented a minimum of 12 ft. from grade.
12. Prior to tank removal from the ground, both Oxygen and LEL measurements shall be taken using a hydrocarbon meter and shall be verified and approved by the field inspector. Tank removal will not be permitted until the Oxygen level is less than 5% and the atmosphere is less than 10% of the LEL.
13. **Once the tanks have been removed from the ground and secured for transport, the contractor**

***has thirty (30) minutes to begin transporting the tanks from the site to an approved disposal facility.***

14. No hot work (cutting and/or welding) shall be permitted until the tanks are certified safe by the field inspector (additional permits may be required).
15. All tanks shall be marked and labeled, as recommended by APT 1604, accordingly prior to transit.
16. The tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with federal and state regulations. Copies of the destination shipping papers and identification of each tank removed shall be provided to the field inspector at the time of the removal.
17. The contractor shall be responsible for the cleanup of any spills or soil contamination and abatement of the same per state and federal requirements. Copies of all documents for the final soil testing results, and the tank destination shall be provided to the Kerrville Fire Marshal's Office when completed.
18. The Fire Marshal's Office may approve alternate methods and material as needed.

To facilitate the permitting and inspection processes, please refer to the information listed below.

#### **Permitting Requirements**

19. Provide a written description of the tank removal operations.
20. Site plan drawings of the existing site location and conditions, to include; including.
  - a. All buildings and structures.
  - b. Fire lanes and fire hydrants.
  - c. Location of tanks with regards to the above.
21. Drawings shall be submitted for review and approval, **PRIOR** to removal.
22. Drawings shall be generated by the installing company specific to the removal operation. Drawings shall show plan view and other pertinent information.
23. **No underground storage tank(s) or associated piping may be removed or otherwise manipulated on the site until a UST Removal Permit has been issued. Any work performed prior to the issuance of this permit may result in a citation being issued for violation of Section 105.6.17 of the International Fire Code.**

#### **General Submittal Requirements**

24. Each submittal shall have a completed Kerrville Fire Marshal Plan Review/Permit Application.
25. Plans approved by the Fire Marshal's Office give authorization for construction. Final approvals are subject to field verification. Any approval issued by the Fire Marshal's Office does not release the contractor or property owner from the responsibility of full compliance with all applicable codes and ordinances relating to the construction project.
26. All installations must concur with the approved plans. Any deviation from the approved plans requires a re-submittal to the Fire Marshal's Office. Installation, fabrication or otherwise construction of the system is prohibited without approved plans and permit.
27. All fire marshal inspection forms and permits shall be kept in a permit packet on the job site until final inspection.
28. This office does not review or approve site specific health and safety plans for adequacy, accuracy, or completeness. Compliance with all applicable worker health and safety regulations, including implementation of the site safety plan, is the responsibility of the owner and contractor.