

Protocol for removal of “exempt” USTs.

Two types of underground fuel tanks [(underground storage tanks (USTs))] are exempt from the monitoring and tank closure requirements of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.7 and California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 23 as defined below.

- “Farm tank” means any one tank or a combination of manifolded tanks that: 1) are located on a farm; and, 2) holds no more than 1,100 gallons of motor vehicle fuel which is used primarily for agricultural purposes and is not held for resale.
- “Heating oil tank” means a tank located on a farm or at a personal residence and which holds no more than 1,100 gallons of home heating oil which is used consumptively at the premises where the tank is stored.

Because the above referenced USTs are exempt from HSC and CCR, a UST Closure Permit from Placer County Environmental Health (PCEH) is not required for removal of these USTs. However, PCEH strongly encourages property owners to obtain a permit for closing these USTs to ensure proper closure and provide the property owner with documentation of the closure. Often, during property transfers or other real estate transactions, a lender may require sign off by the local implementing agency regarding a UST closure. Should contamination be encountered during the UST removal, even if you have chosen not to obtain a permit from this office, PCEH should be notified immediately of the unauthorized release.

If the property owner elects not to obtain a UST closure permit from PCEH to remove an exempt tank, they should proceed as outlined in the CCR, Title 22, Division 4.5, Chapter 32, Management of Tanks, with one exception. Onsite cutting of tanks is prohibited in Placer County. Any deviations from this policy shall be coordinated and approved in writing by the local fire protection district. Additionally, the property owner should always check with the local fire protection district regarding any permitting requirements for UST closure.