

## TIPS FOR DEALING WITH FLOOD-RELATED STORAGE TANK PROBLEMS

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is advising residents to take precautions when dealing with home heating fuel tanks that may have been affected by flooding, heavy snow or ice.

*DEP offers the following tips to prevent problems with storage tanks:*

- Conduct a visual inspection of the tank. Check all structural supports and the tank itself for leaks, cracks or signs of rusting.
- Check the fill line and feed line to the furnace for leaks. Any wet spots or odors may signal a problem.
- Ask your oil company to check inside the tank for the presence of water if you think the tank was submerged by flood waters.
- Once your furnace is operational, keep a close eye on oil usage so that a leak does not continue undetected.
- If your storage tank is outdoors and underneath a roof with icicles, tree limbs or other hazards, either cover the tank area with plywood or safely remove the hazard.

*If you detect a fuel spill has already occurred, you should do the following:*

- Notify emergency response officials or the closest DEP office if the spilled material is highly flammable, such as gasoline or kerosene.
- Check with your local fire department or emergency management officials to determine if absorbent pads or other assistance is available.
- Small spills can be absorbed with kitty litter or a similar material, which can be placed in the trash for disposal.
- For assistance with a larger spill, consult a private contractor.
- Help may be available. DEP has a reimbursement program for certain underground heating oil tank owners to assist with costs of taking corrective action after a release. Information regarding this program is available from your nearest DEP office:

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|--|--------------|--|--------------|
| <b>Southcentral Region: Harrisburg</b> | 717-705-4700 | <b>Northwest Region: Meadville</b>       | 814-332-6945 |
| <b>Southeast Region: Norristown</b>    | 484-250-5900 | <b>Northcentral Region: Williamsport</b> | 570-327-3636 |
| <b>Southwest Region: Pittsburgh</b>    | 412-442-4000 | <b>Northeast Region: Wilkes-Barre</b>    | 570-826-2511 |

For more information, visit [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us), keyword: Flood Recovery.