



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**Fire Prevention Division**

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Policy #: BFP-0020	<b>Aboveground Storage Tank Removal</b>		
Reviewed and Approved By: Gene Dugal	Title: Fire Marshal	Effective Date: August 1, 2009	Revised Date:

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this policy is to establish information on the requirements for the removal of Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST).

**POLICY:**

**Aboveground tanks temporarily out of service (less than 90 days):** are required to have all connecting lines isolated from the tank and be secured against tampering (MSFC (07) Section 3404.2.13.2.1).

**Aboveground tanks out of service for 90 days but less than 1 year:** shall be safeguarded in accordance with MSFC (07) Section 3404.2.13.1.2 or removed in accordance with MSFC (07) Section 3404.2.14. The requirements include:

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank.
2. All piping, including fill line, gauge opening, vapor return and pump connection, shall be capped or plugged and secured from tampering.
3. Vent lines shall remain open and maintained in accordance with MSFC (07) Sections 3404.2.7.3 and 3404.2.7.4.

**Exceptions:**

1. Tanks and containers connected to oil burners that are not in use during warm seasons of the year or are used as a backup heating system to gas.
2. In-place, active fire protection (foam) system lines.

**Aboveground tanks out of service for 1 year or more:** shall be removed in accordance with MSFC (07) Section 3404.2.14. The requirements include:

1. Flammable or combustible liquids shall be removed from the tank and connecting piping.
2. Piping at the tank openings that is not to be used further shall be disconnected.
3. Piping shall be removed from the ground unless the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal determines that the removal is not practical. Abandoned piping shall be capped and safeguarded as required by the City of Bloomington Fire Marshal.
4. Tank openings shall be capped or plugged, leaving a 0.125-inch to 1/4" diameter opening for pressure equalization.
5. Tanks shall be purged of vapor and made inert prior to removal.
6. All exterior above-grade fill and vent piping shall be permanently removed.  
Exception: Piping associated with bulk plants, terminal facilities and refineries.

**Abandonment is not an option for aboveground storage tanks that are out of service for 1 year or more.**

Tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with federal, state and local regulations.

A completed City of Bloomington Tank and Pipe Installation/Removal Permit is required. Additional requirements can be found within the Bloomington City Code, Section 14.224.