



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

GEORGIA EPD UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK PRE-FLOOD CHECKLIST

If a flood is imminent, we recommend that the owner/operator check these items:

- Make sure you know the locations of all Underground Storage Tanks and remediation systems. It would be good to have a facility diagram that includes these locations.
- Put together a list of emergency contacts and notification procedures.
- Put together a list of items needed to maintain service after the flood.
- Put together a list of Underground Storage Tank Contractors and Testers.
- Take inventory and water level readings for comparison after the flood.
- Take steps to reduce the chance of a tank rise if tanks are not anchored:
 - o Place heavy objects such as dumpsters or sandbags over the tank.
 - o If the flooding is not predicted to be excessive, consider filling the tank(s) with fuel to decrease buoyancy so it will not float out of the ground.
 - o If the predicted flood extent and duration is excessive, instead consider minimizing the amount of fuel in tanks to lessen the likelihood of a release into the environment.
 - o Do not fill tanks with water due to the cost of disposing contaminated water and possible corrosion to the tank system.
- Make sure fill caps are secure.
- Place sandbags on top of the spill catch basin and tank top sump lids to minimize the amount of water entering each tank.
- If possible, have an UST technician drain all product lines back into each tank.
- Consider closing flow restrictors and manually tripping shear valves on pressurized piping to prevent product releases from dispenser lines.
- Consider temporarily capping off vent pipes to prevent water from entering the tank.
- Consider protecting fuel pump and controls to prevent damage from flooding.
- If applicable, cap and secure any remediation system located at the facility.

GEORGIA EPD UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK POST-FLOOD CHECKLIST

After waters have subsided, we recommend that the owner/operator check these items:

- If you find any evidence of a release, report it to EPD. [UST Release | Environmental Protection Division \(georgia.gov\)](#)
- Check the concrete pad to make sure the tanks haven't shifted. Tanks can shift or even float during heavy flooding due to buoyancy. Shifted tanks or piping may have had a release. If the pad has been damaged, have a contractor evaluate the entire UST system to determine its suitability to receive product. Report any indication of a release to Georgia EPD.
- Stick the tank(s) or check your ATG to see if water or product levels have changed since before the flood event. Water levels or product levels different from previously recorded levels may indicate a release and must be reported to EPD.
- Also, when you stick the tank(s) or check your ATG, see if water levels are above required levels. Remove water from the tank if required.
- Containment sumps will likely be filled with water. Remove and dispose of the water properly as soon as possible. Water will need to be disposed of by a qualified contractor or service provider.
- Make sure that the remaining product is suitable for use. Remove any unusable product from each UST if needed.
- Empty spill buckets before receiving a delivery and dispose of the water properly. **DO NOT** drain the water into the tank.
- Keep all documents of the work you did to recover from the storm for your next inspection.

EPA's August 2020 Underground Storage Tank Flood Guide is included for additional reference. Guidance for the following topics can be found at the pages listed below:

- Best UST Installation Practices – Page 4
- Pre-Flood Checklist in Preparation for an Imminent Flood – Page 7
- After Flood Checklist – Page 8
- If an On-Site Remediation System is Affected by the Flood – Page 9
- If a UST Floated Out of its Excavation – Page 10
- Responding to a UST Emergency – Page 11
- Above Ground Storage Tank Flood Guidance – Page 14
- Other Useful Resources and Links – Page 18