



County of Riverside  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

P.O. BOX 7909 • RIVERSIDE, CA 92513-7909

JEFF JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT BRANCH**

### **UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK GUIDELINES TO TEMPORARY CLOSURE**

NOTE: This Branch strongly urges applicants to contact the local fire department jurisdiction prior to the temporary closure of any Underground Storage Tank (UST) as local fire restrictions may be more stringent.

#### **A. General Information and Requirements**

1. Temporary closure requirements shall apply to those USTs in which the storage of hazardous substances has ceased, but where the UST owner or operator proposes to retain the ability to use the UST within the next twelve (12) consecutive months for the storage of hazardous substances.
2. Temporary closure requirements do not apply to those USTs in which hazardous substances continue to be stored, even though there is no use being made of the stored hazardous substances. In those cases, the applicable containment and monitoring requirements shall continue to apply.
3. Prior to closure, the UST owner shall submit to the Branch a proposal describing how the owner intends to comply with the temporary closure requirements (i.e., a work plan must be submitted).
4. Temporary closure status is unavailable for USTs that have experienced an unauthorized release unless permitted repairs and testing have been completed.
5. A one-time permit application fee will be assessed at the beginning of the temporary closure period. Operating fees will be required when the UST is placed back into operation.
6. At the end of the twelve (12) month temporary closure period, the Branch may grant an additional twelve (12) month extension if the permittee complies with requirements outlined in Title 23 CCR Section 2670(b) prior to the end of the 12 month temporary closure period.
7. The owner may reuse the underground storage tank only if the tank meets the requirements of Title 23 CCR Article 3 for new underground storage tanks or is upgraded to meet the requirements of Title 23 CCR Article 6.

#### **B. Owner/Operator must comply with the following Temporary Closure Requirements:**

1. Complete a UST closure application and submit applicable fees. A closure permit valid for ninety (90) days will be issued. If a closure inspection of the UST is not completed by a representative from this Branch within ninety (90) days, the closure permit shall expire.

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2. A UST closure inspection must be scheduled with the Branch five (5) working days in advance of proposed closure date by e-mailing USTnotifications@rivco.org.
3. All liquids, solids, and sludge shall be removed and handled according to the provisions of Chapter 6.5, Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code and Title 22, Chapter 32, Section 67383.1 of the California Code of Regulations. The UST shall be properly cleaned, which usually requires the pressure washing/rinsing of the UST and removal of the contents via a vacuum type pump system that is designed to safely handle flammable liquids. The Branch can provide a list of licensed hazardous waste haulers/tank rinsing companies.
4. Flammable vapors must be purged from the UST and the UST shall be inert to prevent an explosion or fire. The Branch must verify Lower Explosive Limit (LEL) is < 10% prior to the inerting of the UST with 22.2 lbs. of dry ice per 1,000 gallons of UST capacity. The local fire and AQMD regulations may be more restrictive.
5. All fill, access locations, and piping (except for required venting) shall be sealed with locking caps and/or concrete plugs.
6. Disconnect electrical service to the pump associated with UST to be temporarily closed (i.e., remove breakers, disconnect turbine/dispenser wiring). Corrosion protection systems must remain operational during the temporary closure period.
7. An inspection of the temporarily closed UST shall be performed and recorded by the owner/operator at least once every three (3) months to assure that the temporary closure requirements are still in effect. This shall, at a minimum include:
  - a. Visual inspections of all locked caps and concrete plugs.
  - b. At least one (1) locking cap (if used) shall be removed to determine if any contaminant has been added to the tank or if there has been a liquid level change.
  - c. Verification that the electrical service is still disconnected.
  - d. Verify that the UST is inert.