

INFORMATION BULLETIN

REQUIREMENTS FOR ABOVEGROUND FUEL OIL TANK INSTALLATION FOR RESIDENTIAL AREAS

Code Reference:

California Fire Code, (CFC), 2001 Edition, Sections 7901.3.1, 7902.2, 7902.3.6, 7902.3.7, 7903.3.3

NOTE: These provisions apply to the installation of fuel oil tanks in residential areas wherein the tanks are a component of a closed pipe system supplying appliances within the residence.

1. A permit shall be obtained from the Fire Department for the installation of a fuel oil storage tank (CFC 7901.3.1).
2. A **single aboveground tank** not exceeding 275 gallons capacity may be installed on a residential parcel in conformance with the following (CFC 7902.2.2.2 / RMC 9.20.040):
 - a. Tank installation shall NOT be within structure.
 - b. The tank shall be constructed in conformance with Underwriters Laboratories Standard 142.
 - c. The tank shall be equipped with emergency venting and shall limit tank pressure to 2.5 PSIG.
 - d. The tank and appliance shall be equipped with shut-off valves.
 - e. The tank shall be installed in accordance with the provisions of the CFC, 2001 Edition. These provisions require, in part, that tanks shall be a minimum of five (5) feet from the edge of the roof overhang, a minimum of five (5) feet from any openings (windows, doors, vents) in the structure and a minimum of five (5) feet from property lines. (See back page for diagram)
 - f. Tank shall not be located adjacent to vehicle paths unless suitably protected from damage (CFC 7902.3.6). (See back page for diagram)

- g. Tank location shall be maintained free of all combustible material, including non-irrigated vegetation, for a distance of fifteen (15) feet in all directions (CFC 7902.3.7).
 - h. Tank shall be installed on a noncombustible supporting structure approved by the Building Department. **NOTE: Plans with calculations, stamped by a licensed engineer or architect will be required for all support systems.**
 - i. All piping shall be of approved double wall construction designed to preclude environmental contamination.
 - j. Piping within the structure shall be continuous, only having fittings necessary to accommodate changes in piping direction.
 - k. Tank shall be equipped with a dike system to provide containment for any spillage.
3. Existing installations not meeting the standards set forth in this document shall NOT be refueled. They shall be referred to the Fire Department for evaluation.
 4. Fuel suppliers shall complete an annual inspection of each installation to ensure on-going compliance with these standards. A copy of the annual inspection report shall be submitted to the Fire Department.
 5. An inspection by the Building Department for compliance with Uniform Mechanical Code shall be conducted.
 6. Submit a site plan to the Fire Department of the location and size of the tank(s), and the appropriate distances to buildings, property lines, other fuel tanks, such as liquid petroleum gas tanks, and access ways prior to any installation.
 7. An onsite inspection of the placement of the tank and pad must be completed by the fire and building departments prior to the tank being filled by the fuel vendor.