



# County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION  
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## TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs) APPLICATION & PROCEDURES

California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 23, Section 2671 allows for the temporary closure of USTs in which the storage of hazardous substances has ceased but the underground tank will again be used for the storage of hazardous substances within the next 12 months. **Those USTs that have experienced an unauthorized release or are not in full compliance with applicable regulations do not qualify for temporary closure until such time that the owner/operator demonstrates to the Hazardous Materials Division (HMD) that appropriate authorized repairs, under permit and inspection, have been made which would allow the tank to be capable of storing hazardous substances. USTs that have experienced an unauthorized release and cannot be repaired must be permanently closed under permit and inspection. All unauthorized releases must be reported to the HMD within 24 hours.**

Any UST owner / operator applicant that requests temporary closure is required to submit the attached application prior to implementing any temporary closure requirement. Once the application has been reviewed, an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will schedule an onsite inspection to verify that the temporary closure requirements have been met. The temporary closure requirements are listed below. Temporary closure approval or disapproval will be made by the EHS in writing.

### TEMPORARY CLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

The owner/operator shall comply with the following requirements:

- A. Remove all liquid, solids, and sludge and handle according to provisions of Chapter 6.5, Division 20 of the California Health and Safety Code. If the tank contained a hazardous substance that could produce flammable vapors at standard temperature and pressure, then the tank shall be inerted to levels that shall preclude an explosion. In addition to properly purging the tank from flammable vapors, the tank system must also be properly decontaminated (cleaned) by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. A copy of the hazardous waste manifest must be submitted with the proposal.
- B. All fill, access locations, and piping (except for required venting) shall be sealed with locking caps or concrete plugs.

## **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS (USTs) APPLICATION & PROCEDURES (continued)**

- C. Disconnect electric service to the pump associated with the tank to be temporarily closed, unless the pump serves another tank.
- D. An inspection of the temporarily closed tank shall be performed and recorded by the owner/operator at least once **every three (3) months** to ensure that the temporary closure actions are still in effect. This shall, at a minimum, include:
  - 1. Visual inspection of all locked caps and concrete plugs.
  - 2. If locking caps are utilized, then at least one (1) shall be removed to determine if any contaminant has been added to the tank, or if there has been a liquid level change.
- E. Monthly Designated Operator reporting is **not** required during the approved temporary closure period.
- F. The tank may be filled with a noncorrosive liquid that is not a hazardous substance. This liquid must be tested and the test results submitted to the HMD prior to its being removed from the tank at the end of the temporary closure period.
- G. Temporary closed tanks will continue to be assessed an annual operating fee and will be inspected by HMD staff.
- H. If tank(s) and/or product piping are single walled, submit the current year's tank integrity test verifying tank tightness or other documentation indicating that the tank has not leaked.
- I. Requests for an extension must be made prior to the 12 month temporary closure expiration date and will be subject to additional processing/review fees.

For further information regarding the temporary closure on an underground storage tank, please contact the HMD Duty Desk at (858) 505-6880.