



CITY OF ABERDEEN FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Heating Oil Tank Decommissioning

For residential oil tanks no longer in use

The International Fire Code requires that an above ground or underground heating oil tank, which has been out of service for a period of one year, must be:

- Removed from the property (above ground tank)
- Removed from underground or;
- Permanently closed in place. (underground tanks only)

The Aberdeen Fire Department does not monitor, regulate, or keep record of residential heating oil tank closures or removals.

No records of heating oil tanks are retained at the department unless the tanks are 660 gallons or more.

Closing oil tanks in place (Abandoning)

If an underground heating oil tank is closed in place all of the following requirements must be met:

- Flammable and combustible liquids must be removed from the tank and connected piping.
- The suction line, inlet line, gauge, vapor return, and vapor lines must be disconnected.
- The tank must be filled completely with an approved inert solid material.
- All remaining underground piping must be capped or plugged.
- A record of the tank size, location and date of abandonment must be retained.
- All exterior above-grade fill piping must be permanently removed.

(Reference: 2015 International Fire Code, Section 5704.2.13.1)

This outline should only be used as a guide, The Aberdeen Fire Department recommends that you hire a licensed contractor to assist you in the closure of a heating oil tank on your property.

If you have further questions regarding decommissioning, please contact The Aberdeen Fire Dept. Assistant Chief. Additional information can also be obtained from the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency.