



***CAN ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS CONTAMINATE MY DRINKING WATER?***

A spill of only one gallon of oil can contaminate a million gallons of water. Storage tank spills can contaminate drinking water supplies and take years for ecosystems to recover. All spills pose a threat to human health and the environment, require remediation which may extend beyond property boundaries, and result in substantial cleanup costs. At low levels of contamination, fuel contaminants in water cannot be detected by smell or taste, yet the seemingly pure water may be contaminated to the point of affecting human health.

The City is working cooperatively with storage tank owners to implement preventive measures to help protect the drinking water of storage tank owners and the City's residents. Mismanaged aboveground storage tanks pose a serious threat to drinking water supplies because they have the ability to breakdown geologic barriers which protect aquifers from contamination.

**SIMPLE STEPS CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

- Aboveground storage tanks should have a secondary containment area in case of a spill.
- After precipitation events all discharge collected within the secondary containment areas should be inspected for petroleum or chemicals prior to being dispensed.
- Equipment should be fueled on a concrete pad which has secondary containment.
- Routinely monitor all aboveground storage tanks to ensure they are not leaking. Check the level of fuel in the tank before you withdraw fuel, to ensure the level in the tank has not changed since your last use.
- Inspect tanks periodically to ensure they are in good condition. Areas to inspect include the foundations, secondary containment areas, connections, coatings, tank walls, and the piping system.
- Follow all MN Pollution Control Agency requirements and recommended practices.

For additional information visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/programs/tanks.html>, <http://www.mrwa.com> or contact MPCA's Customer Assistance Center at 800-646-6247, or the MPCA Information Line at 800-657-3864. If you have further questions please contact the city.

City Contact Info

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