



DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

BUREAU OF UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS

FACT SHEET

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SENSITIVE AREAS

As directed by the Ohio General Assembly, the Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) rules define certain parts of Ohio as Sensitive Areas and establish technical standards for underground storage tanks (USTs) in those areas. Proximity to drinking water sources was the main criterion used in designating areas as sensitive.

Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 1301:7-9-09 defines a number of survey tracts located in the following counties as sensitive areas due to their proximity to sole-source aquifers as defined by U.S. EPA. Parts of the following counties are affected by this provision of the rule:

- Allen
- Auglaize
- Butler
- Champaign
- Clark
- Clermont
- Green
- Guernsey
- Hamilton
- Logan
- Mercer
- Miami
- Montgomery
- Ottawa (Catawba Island only)
- Preble
- Putnam
- Shelby
- Van Wert
- Warren

To determine if an UST is located within a survey tract designated as a sensitive area, begin by looking at the property deed or survey to determine the township section(s) and/or survey tract(s) where the UST is located. Once this determination is made, reference the appropriate county in OAC rule 1301:7-9-09(B) to see if the UST is located in one of the township section(s) and/or survey tract(s) listed as being a sensitive area.

If you are unable to find the number of the township section(s) and/or survey track(s) for the property in question, you can consult Sensitive Area Maps that have been prepared by BUSTR staff in conjunction with Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These maps are available for viewing at the BUSTR office. Additional regional State maps that depict sensitive areas are available at the BUSTR web site at www.com.state.oh.us/sfm/bust.

In addition to the survey tracts mentioned above, Ohio Administrative Code rule 1301:7-9-09 defines the following areas as sensitive:

1. Areas located within 50 feet of a private water supply well or developed spring not located on the same site as the UST system;
2. Areas within 200 feet of a lake or reservoir with an average surface area of at least five acres;
3. Areas within a half-circle shaped arc 1,000 feet upstream of a public water supply water intake where the base line of the half-circle is perpendicular to the stream at the intake (unless the UST owner or operator demonstrates that the system is

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located in a drainage area downstream of the intakes);

4. Areas within 100 feet of a man-made underground structure, tunnel or cavity used primarily for pedestrian traffic or passenger carrying vehicles; and
5. Areas within the following distances of public water supplies designated by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

Net Production Rate	Distance Requirement	Horizontal Distance
10,000 gallons/day or less		100 feet
10,001 to 50,000 gallons/day		200 feet
50,001 gallons/day or greater		300 feet

UST LOCATED WITHIN SENSITIVE AREAS

In order to provide a more stringent level of protection for human health and the environment within Ohio's designated sensitive areas, the following requirements have been set:

1. After September 1, 1992, newly installed UST systems located in a sensitive area must meet all new construction requirements that apply to all UST systems as well as have an approved method of secondary containment for USTs and underground piping;
2. After September 1, 1992, newly installed UST systems in a sensitive areas must use interstitial monitoring as the primary means of monthly release detection for USTs and underground piping as defined in paragraph (D)(3) of rule 1301:7-9-07 of the Administrative Code;
3. Existing UST systems located in newly designated sensitive areas must be modified with an approved method of release detection for underground piping as defined paragraph (C)(1)(c) of rule 1301:7-9-7 of the Administrative Code that includes an automatic shutoff line leak detector that will permit the operator to restart the flow of fuel only once;
4. UST systems that existed in areas prior to the areas being declared sensitive may use other approved methods of monthly release detection for USTs other than interstitial monitoring; and
5. Both newly installed and existing UST systems located in sensitive areas must be operated and maintained in accordance with the various operational compliance requirements defined in rule 1301:7-9-8 of the Administrative Code.

This fact sheet is one of a series on Ohio's underground storage tank program. Please copy as needed.

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