

Buried Fuel Oil Tanks Fact Sheet

Buried fuel oil tanks have an average life span of 15-20 years. During that time, they gradually corrode until they begin to leak fuel. This creates the potential for contaminating ground water.

In our community, the Beavercreek area is of special concern. Between 3,000 – 4,000 buried fuel oil tanks were installed in Beavercreek over the past several decades. Now, however, only 1 in 4 tanks is still in use. With these tanks nearly 40+ years old, there is a high risk for potential groundwater contamination.

Regulations regarding maintenance and disposition of buried fuel oil tanks is found in the State of Ohio Fire Code, Chapter 1301:7-7-28. Abandoned fuel oil tanks must be removed, a permit is required to either install or remove a tank. These permits must be obtained from your local fire department, or from the State Fire Marshal—if your local fire department has no permitting program.

The State Fire Marshal can be contacted regarding buried tanks as follows:

8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
Phone: 888-276-0303
web.BUSTR@com.ohio.gov

The Ohio Private Water Systems rules, which are administered by Greene County Public Health, require all wells to be at least 50' from a buried fuel oil tank. If a tank is found violating these setbacks during an inspection, the Health District will require it to be removed. Proof of a removal permit may be required before a private water system will be approved.

If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact our office at (937) 374-5661.