



March 29, 2025

Underground Storage Tanks

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (ctas.tennessee.edu). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

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Reference Number: CTAS-545

A statewide program, in conjunction with a national effort, is in effect to protect the public and the environment from leaking underground petroleum storage tanks. All owners, including counties, of underground tanks for the storage of petroleum products are subject to the program specifications.

Among other requirements, owners must prevent leaks and protect their tanks from corrosion and they must notify the commissioner of environment and conservation and the United States Environmental Protection Agency of the existence of the tank. A fund has been created to help pay for leak cleanups.

Owners must contribute fees to this fund, and the proceeds of an environmental assurance fee (four tenths cent per gallon of petroleum products imported into this state or manufactured in this state) are deposited into this fund. T.C.A. § 68-215-101 *et seq.* An owner/operator of a tank must pay all outstanding fees, interest and penalties in order to receive a certificate for the tank. A certificate is necessary to lawfully receive petroleum products into the tank. All applications for the payment of costs of cleanup must be received by the Division of Underground Storage Tanks within one (1) year of the performance of the tasks covered by that application in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Any person who knowingly causes or allows a release of petroleum into the environment commits a Class E felony, punishable by fine only. T.C.A. § 68-215-120.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/eli/underground-storage-tanks>