

# REMOVAL or ABANDONMENT OF AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK

**Prior to the removal of a residential or commercial underground storage tank (to include all tanks storing flammable and combustible liquids other than propane), Applications need to be submitted to and approved by both the Fire Marshal and Building Official.**

See each application for specific contractor requirements.

**Note:** Essex does not have a town ordinance for removal of an underground storage tank if a property is being sold; however, a new owner may not be able to get a mortgage if a house is purchased with an underground storage tank. An underground storage tank when abandoned; would require draining of all liquids in the tank, digging to bottom and cutting a hole in the bottom of tank to get a soil sample from under the tank, then filling the tank with sand. This procedure is typically more expensive than removing the tank.

## **Fire Marshal Procedure:**

1. Applicant completes Application to Abandon/Remove an Underground Storage Tank
2. Application fee is \$40 per tank.

**The Fire Marshal must be present upon abandonment or removal to inspect the ground to make sure there is no contamination. The Fire Marshal completes a report stating the condition of the tank and soil which then becomes part of the property file.**

## **Building Official Procedure:**

1. Applicant completes a Building Permit Application. State in the description field that it is for an UST Abandonment/Removal.
2. The fee is \$30 based on a TCV of \$1,000 regardless of the number of tanks being addressed. If the applicant chooses to combine the abandonment/removal with the install of a new tank, the actual TCV is used and the fee is calculated accordingly.
3. Once the Building Official receives the Fire Marshal's report indicating the tank has been removed, the final inspection can be scheduled and the building permit closed.