

Loss Prevention Safety Tip



**Loss Prevention
Program**

By Red River Mutual

DOMESTIC FUEL OIL TANKS

Heating a house with fuel oil continues to be a common source of heating for rural residents. Oil spills and leaks caused by corrosion, tank damage, unstable base or footings, overfilling and burst lines can create significant environmental, health and financial losses. Every home owner using fuel oil should adopt the following preventative measures to protect their home, family and neighbors:

Preventative Measures to Protect Your Home

- Be aware of the smell of oil. Fuel oil contains a small amount of benzene, a known carcinogen. Contact your heating contractor immediately if you smell fuel oil.
- Check to ensure that your oil tank is approved by Underwriter's Laboratories of Canada (ULC) and includes a vent alarm or whistle to prevent overfilling.
- If your tank is 15 years of age or older, consider replacing it with a new one.
- Never buy or install used fuel oil tanks and never transfer oil from an old tank to a new one, as water and contaminants can also be transferred.
- Ensure your oil tank and heating system is installed by a professional heating contractor to ensure efficiency and safety.
- Oil tanks should be located at least 100 feet from the nearest well. Tanks located beside driveways should be protected with concrete posts to prevent vehicle impact.
- Install a roof or shield above the tank to protect it from falling snow and ice.
- Oil tanks should rest on a solid, non-combustible, level surface. Tanks should not be touching a wall, resting on wood or raised on stacked blocks.
- Have your oil tank, fuel lines and furnace inspected by a certified oil burner technician at least once a year.



Fuel Oil Tank Self-Inspection Checklist

Place a check mark beside all statements that apply to you:

<input type="checkbox"/>	The legs of my fuel oil tank are resting on a questionable footing, are bent or appear badly corroded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The fuel oil line for the tank runs under a concrete floor, or is encased in concrete.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are signs of leakage around the fill or vent pipes, or by the tank itself.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The vent whistle is silent when the tank is being filled (ask the delivery person).
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is a strong smell of fuel oil near my oil tank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Oil consumption seems higher than normal.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There are signs of dripping oil from the bottom of the tank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	The fuel oil gauge for the tank is broken, missing or faulty.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The filter and/or fuel line located at the base of the tank is not protected from falling ice or snow.	<input type="checkbox"/>	I did not have my fuel oil tank, connection lines and furnace inspected within the last year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	There is rust or corrosion on the outside of the tank.	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are inactive fill pipes on the outside of the house that have not been removed or capped off.

If you placed a check mark in any of the boxes above, contact your oil burner technician or fuel oil supplier to arrange for a more detailed inspection.

See more loss prevention tips at www.preventingloss.com

While the safety recommendations in this report are based on apparent and obvious conditions that were found at the time of inspection, the report does not purport to identify all hazards or guarantee compliance with any standards, codes, ordinances or regulations. It is not legal or expert advice, and should not be used in place of consultation with appropriate professionals. Any person relying on this information does so entirely at their own risk. Red River Mutual denies all responsibility for any liability, loss, injury or risk which is incurred as a direct or indirect result of the use of any of the recommendations in this report.