DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER

www.ctcswp.ca

Ontario

Threat Activity #15: The handling and storage of fuel

Underground home heating fuel storage tanks, gasoline stations and agricultural fuel storage all fall under this threat activity.

How is Fuel Storage a threat to drinking water?

Fuel storage systems contain chemicals, which if they are released into the environment, can pose a significant threat to drinking water sources. Storage of more than 250 litres of fuel in the most vulnerable areas is considered to be a significant drinking water threat.

Fuel leaks often occur in populated areas, where public and domestic water supplies are concentrated, and it is difficult and expensive to clean them up. It is much cheaper and more effective to prevent them from contaminating the water in the first place. This is what Source Water Protection Planning is all about.

Signs you might have a fuel leak

- Are you using more fuel than normal?
- Are there signs of oil sheens in nearby streams,wetlands, or drainage ditches?
- Are there signs of distressed (withered) vegetation over or down slope of the tank?
- Is the tank vent clogged or restricted because of ice, snow,or insect nests? (Screened vents can be used to prevent insect nest problems.)
- Is the overfill whistle silent when the tank is being filled? (Ask your delivery person.)
- Are there signs of spills around the fill pipe or the vent pipe?

How might this affect me?

The Source Protection Committee is in the process of developing Source Protection Plans which will outline policies that will affect residents on whose property fuel storage or handling have been identified as a significant threat to drinking water. These policies are designed to reduce the risk associated with fuel storage so close to a drinking water source. We invite you to join the Source Protection Process at ctcswp.ca and provide us with local knowledge about fuel storage sites in your community.

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