What to Do if Your Heating Oil Tank Has a Leak

Heating oil tank owners and operators must report any suspected or known petroleum leaks from their heating oil tank. This document provides guidance on what to do if you have a leaking heating oil tank.

If You Have a Leaking Heating Oil Tank:

1. **Remove all remaining heating oil from the leaking tank.**

   As soon as you discover a leak, stop automatic heating oil deliveries and have your heating oil dealer pump all oil out of the the heating oil tank. The longer you wait to remove the oil from the tank, the more likely contamination will spread.

2. **Report the release to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) within 24 hours of discovery.**

   - **Report by phone or email:** The person you report the release to depends on the region where your heating oil tank is located. You can find the appropriate person to contact on Ecology's website at: https://ecology.wa.gov/About-us/Contact-us/Region-contacts
   - **Report online:** Alternatively, you can report the leak by filling out Ecology's Statewide Environmental Reports Tracking System (ERTS) form online at: https://ecology.wa.gov/footer-pages/report-an-environmental-issue/statewide-reporting-form-erts

   Reports submitted to Ecology's regional contacts or through the ERTS form are only monitored during business hours. **If your leak is an emergency, contact the Washington State Emergency Management Division at: 1-800-258-5990.** See additional reporting requirements for leaks that impact water in the box to the right.

3. **When you report your leak, Ecology will assign an ERTS tracking number to your leak's record. Make sure to keep a record of this tracking number.**

Ecology Regions (Source: Department of Ecology)

Reporting a Heating Oil Leak that Impacts Water

If a leak from your heating oil tank is likely to have an impact on drinking water, you need to report the leak immediately to reduce impacts to human health and the environment.

Once you have contained the leak, report the leak immediately to both of the organizations below:

- **Washington Emergency Management Division:** 1-800-258-5990
- **National Response Center:** 1-800-424-8802

Washington State
Pollution Liability Insurance Agency
Phone: (800) 822-3905
Email: pliamail@plia.wa.gov
Website: www.plia.wa.gov Twitter: @PLIAWA

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