



Be Ready for Floods: Fuel tanks and hazardous substances in flood areas

Floods are a serious risk in many NWT communities. Fuel tanks and other hazardous materials can cause serious environmental damage. If floods are likely in your area, work with your community government and fuel provider to secure them, move them, or empty them.

Here are some tips for when floods are likely:

- Your community government may already have a plan for fuel tanks in flood situations. Contact them and learn about what the community emergency plan is for fuel tanks.
- Household hazardous wastes (chemicals, oils and fuels) should be relocated to an appropriate and secure location outside of the flood zone.
- If these substances are left on your property, they should be securely stored above the potential high water level. Contact your community government for information.
- All fuel tanks and attached lines should be safely pumped out into appropriate containment for removal to an appropriate and secure location outside of the flood zone or above the potential high water.
- Turn off power to all tank systems including pumps and dispensers. Ensure all tank and line valves are closed.
- If possible, moveable and empty aboveground tanks should be carefully moved to an appropriate location outside of the flood zone or above the potential high water level. If these aboveground tanks are not moveable, ensure they are emptied and the fill caps are secure. If the water level is expected to rise above the top of vent pipes, extend vent pipes to a height above potential flood water level. Ensure tanks are securely anchored and included within a berming system.
- Consider berming around tanks if not already included within berming systems.
- Underground tanks and associated lines should also be emptied of fuel if possible. Underground tanks may also rise/float during flooding. Reduce the risk of underground tanks rising by placing heavy objects (for example: sandbags, large containers full of sand, or rocks) overtop of the underground tank.
- Spill containment (i.e., spill booms and pads) should be installed around the tank if there is a risk of fuel or fuel residue being spread to the environment.
- Report all spills to the NWT Spill Line at (867) 920-8130. The NWT Spill line can also provide advice on containment and clean-up.

More tips for preparing for emergencies:
gov.nt.ca/BeReadyNWT
