

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) revised the Underground Storage Tank (UST) rule Chapter 173-360 WAC in August 2012, and part of that revision includes establishing emergency response requirements. Section 750(2) in the rule requires that each UST facility have properly trained and certified Class A and B designated person(s) and, at manned UST facilities, at least one individual manning the facility must be a C operator. Also, each UST facility must have signage posted that provides emergency response information. **The signage requirements took effect on October 1, 2012.**

How can facilities meet the signage requirements?

Each regulated UST facility shall maintain signage that:

- Is posted in a prominent area, which is easily visible to anyone dispensing or delivering fuel.
- Identifies the location of a fire extinguisher and the emergency shut-off device, **unless the sign is placed adjacent to them.**
- Has instructions for what to do in the case of an emergency.

Ecology recommends the instructions include the following or equivalent wording:

<p style="text-align: center;">IN CASE OF FIRE, SPILL, OR RELEASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use Emergency Pump Shutoff located at [insert location]▪ Call the Fire Dept. at 911 [or Local Fire Department Phone #]▪ Call the Facility Operator at [insert 24-hour Telephone #] <p style="text-align: center;">[Name of Facility] [Address of Facility]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fire Extinguisher located at [insert location]</p>
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Where signage should be placed?

Signage should be installed on the building nearest the dispensers, so that it is visible to anyone dispensing or delivering fuel. A minimum of one sign is required per facility, but if it cannot be easily located due to the size of the facility, it is advisable to post extra signs. In some situations, Ecology may require more signs.

How will owners and operators be notified if their signage is missing or incorrect?

When an Ecology inspector conducts a site visit, he/she will evaluate whether or not the facility meets the signage requirement. If it does not, the inspector may issue a Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) to the UST owner/operator. The NONC identifies the violation and provides a compliance schedule to resolve it. Lack of proper signage is a violation of the UST regulations, which may also result in a monetary fine.

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