

TIPS TO COME FROM FRANK THE TANK

Does it seem that lately our communication program has been focusing on the proper operation and maintenance of underground storage tank systems? It is for very good reasons.

The Ohio Revised Code and the Board's rules require that owners and operators not only achieve compliance but maintain compliance with UST regulations to obtain a Certificate of Coverage and, most importantly, to be eligible to make a claim against the Financial Assurance Fund.

Some owners and operators overlook many of the annual, monthly and daily requirements that must be met for the routine operation and maintenance of UST systems.

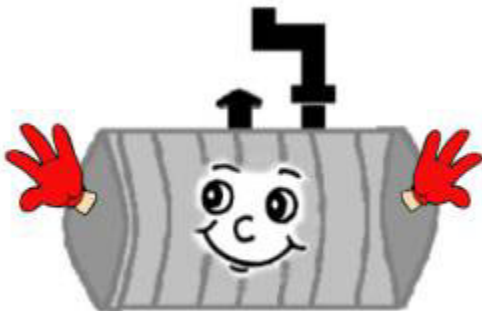
In fact, in response to Congressional concerns about leaking underground storage tanks (USTs), the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) was commissioned to review the underground storage tank program administered by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ([USEPA](#)).

Based upon state and EPA responses to the GAO survey, it is estimated that approximately 89% of the regulated USTs in the nation were upgraded by the end of 2000. **It was also estimated that 29% of those are not being operated or maintained properly.**

Survey respondents, as well as expert and industry groups, attribute operations and maintenance problems to poor training among tank owners, installers, operators, and removers.

[BUSTR](#) has recently studied the results of 340 citations issued following compliance inspections completed after December 22, 1998. Among the most frequent violations are; failure to conduct an annual test of the piping leak detector and to conduct an annual line tightness test or monthly monitoring for pressure piping, inadequate operation and maintenance of automatic tank gauging and failure to test a tank system's cathodic protection. Not only can owners be fined for these violations, but Fund coverage can be jeopardized also.

The Board will be issuing periodic reminders in which **Frank the Tank** will offer tips and advice regarding the proper operation and maintenance of UST systems. **Frank** suggests you keep this information in a conspicuous location to remind those who are responsible for UST system compliance of his tips and advice.



Frank the Tank

Don't jeopardize Fund Coverage by not being in operational compliance.