



**BEXAR COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

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**CHRIS LOPEZ**  
Fire Marshal

Following are the requirements for submitting for permits for all flammable and combustible liquid tanks:

- 1. Since Fire Code adoption in 1993, all tanks capable of holding 100 gallons or more require permitting. All permanent tanks over 500 gallons are required to meet UL requirements, as outlined in the Bexar County Fire Code and in this document.**
- 2. Temporary tanks are permitted for no more than 180 days. After 180 days, the tank must be re-permitted, prior to the expiration of the temporary permit. The submittal/permitting process is the same for temporary tanks, without the UL and protection requirements assigned to permanent tanks.**
- 3. Rental tanks at business locations are NOT considered temporary unless a signed agreement copy providing for removal within 180 days is provided with permit submittal. Temporary tanks may be re-permitted as temporary one time. If the tank is re-permitted again, it will be required to meet the requirements for a permanent tank.**
- 4. ALL tanks, temporary or permanent, are required to meet the appropriate distance requirements from structures, property lines, and roads (distance based on size in gallons) that is required by the Bexar County Fire Code.**
- 5. Fuel lines and pumps/dispensers must be permitted separately.**
- 6. Elevated and gravity-fed tanks are illegal and are not allowed for use at any location except private residential and agricultural uses.**
- 7. Permit information and application can be found at [www.bexar.org/fm](http://www.bexar.org/fm). Each tank and each fuel line/dispenser requires a separate application and fee. Once on the web site, select the Enforcement & Inspections drop-down, then select Permits & Applications. Print out applications for each tank/fuel line/dispenser.**

**To submit for permit: An appointment is required. Call 210-335-0300 to make an appointment with Deputy Fire Marshal Joseph Nevil, who is in charge of tank permitting. At the time of submittal, you will need:**

- Application(s) with payment for the fees (cash, check [made to Bexar County Clerk], or money order; no credit/debit cards);**
- Manufacturer's sheets on the tank(s)/fuel line(s)/dispenser(s) including size, design, construction, etc.;**
- A plot plan of the property showing proposed location of the tank(s), distance from the tank(s) to all structures, property lines, and roads;**

- **A plan showing containment/protection designs for the tank(s), etc., and location(s) of any emergency shutoff switch;**
- **A plan showing complete electrical wiring installation for the tank(s), if applicable. The licensed electrician doing the installation is required to obtain an Electrical Work Authorization permit from the Fire Marshal's Office.**

**8. Fees: Each tank requires a permit fee of \$350.00; if the tank is installed without a permit, a penalty of double permit fee (\$700.00) per tank will be required. Each set of fuel lines/dispenser will require a permit fee of \$175.00; each fuel line set/dispenser installed without a permit will require a penalty of double permit fee (\$350.00).**

**9. Tanks 1000 gallons or larger that contain Class 1 liquids, such as gasoline, or tanks 3000 gallons or larger that contain Class 2 liquids, such as diesel, must comply with the requirements for a protected UL 2085 tank. Tanks with less than these listed capacities, and tanks over 500 gallons that contain Class 3 liquids, such as motor oil, must comply with UL 142 tank requirements.**

**10. ALL permanent tanks must comply with the vehicle impact protection requirements of the Bexar County Fire Code, as follows:**

**SECTION 312 VEHICLE IMPACT PROTECTION 312.1 General.** Vehicle impact protection required by this code shall be provided by posts that comply with Section 312.2 or by other *approved* physical barriers that comply with Section 312.3.

**312.2 Posts.** Guard posts shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. Constructed of steel not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter and concrete filled.
2. Spaced not more than 4 feet (1219 mm) between posts on center.
3. Set not less than 3 feet (914 mm) deep in a concrete footing of not less than a 15-inch (381 mm) diameter.
4. Set with the top of the posts not less than 3 feet (914 mm) above ground.
5. Located not less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the protected object.

**312.3 Other barriers.** Barriers, other than posts specified in Section 312.2, that are designed to resist, deflect, or visually deter vehicular impact commensurate with an anticipated impact scenario shall be permitted where approved.

**11. ALL tanks, permanent or temporary, must have containment protection meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Bexar County Fire Code.**

**12. For appointments or any questions, please contact Deputy Fire Marshal Joseph Nevil 210-335-0300.**

# **INSTALLATION/REMOVAL** **UNDERGROUND/ABOVEGROUND FUEL SYSTEMS**

**\*NOTE: ALL REQUIRED INSPECTIONS MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST 72 HOURS IN ADVANCE**

## **FOR ALL:**

- a. Submit plans and fees for approval and issuance of permit.
- b. Permit on site (\$75.00 fee imposed for permit/approved plans **NOT** on site-payable prior to installation/removal).

## **FOR REMOVALS:**

- a. Fire Inspector to witness inerting and removal of existing tanks (if applicable). Fire Inspector MUST approve explosive meter readings before tank is removed from ground.
- b. All tank removals shall include both purging of vapors and inerting with CO<sub>2</sub> (dry ice). Before removal, all readings must be 1% fuel vapor in air or below.

## **FOR INSTALLATIONS:**

- a. Fire Inspector to witness bedding preparation prior to installation of underground tanks (minimum 6" of gravel).
- b. Fire inspector to witness installation and covering of underground fuel tanks.
- c. Fire Inspector to witness installation of all aboveground fuel tanks.
- d. Fire inspector to witness installation of all pumps and fuel lines.
- e. Fire Inspector to witness **one hour air pressure or vacuum testing** of new tanks (to be performed prior to installation or filling), with pressures between 3 and 5 psi (Aboveground and Underground Tanks), testing **both the inner tank and the interstitial space**.
- f. Fire Inspector to witness **30 minute air pressure testing** of all fuel lines.
- g. Fire Inspector to witness **first fill, including testing of high fuel alarm, automatic fuel shutoff, and emergency fuel shutoff switches**, as well as verify vapor venting at no less than 12' above grade.
- h. Any discrepancy corrections shall be made before continuation of installation/removal may progress.**