Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Systems: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Issues Wildfire Preparation Guide



Walter Wright, Jr.
wwright@mwlaw.com
(501) 688.8839

10/06/2021

The United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") issued a September 2021 document titled:

Wildfire Guide

Preparation and Recovery for Underground and Aboveground Storage Tank Systems ("Guide")

EPA's stated purpose in developing the Guide is to serve as a resource for underground storage tank ("UST") and oil aboveground storage tank ("AST") owners and operators in the event of a wildfire.

Owners and operators of USTs and ASTs are provided information that is intended to help them prepare for and respond to catastrophic effects and environmental harm that may occur as a result of partial or fully burned UST systems or oil ASTs along with associated piping/appurtenances.

EPA consolidated federal, state, non-governmental, and UST and oil AST industry resources in preparing the Guide.

Components of the Guide include:

- What to Do as the Fire Approaches Your Facility
- Recovery from the Fire
- UST Finder – National Underground Storage Tank Web Map and Applications for Wildfire
- UST Finder : Proactive Applications
- Case Studies of Wildfire Impacts on UST Facilities
- Key Points to Consider in Case of Wildfire
- Wildfire Preparation
- UST Finder: Near Real time Fire Conditions
- What to do as the Fire Approaches your Facility
- UST Finder : Post Event Screening
- Debris Flow Fields – Post Wildfire and Precipitation
- Wildfire Preparation
- Are Wildfire an Issue for ASTs
- Financial Assistance Available to UST and Oil AST Owners and Operators

A copy of the Guide can be downloaded here.