Unit 12

Underground Storage Tanks
What is the Problem?

- Safety (explosion hazard)
- Soil contamination
- Groundwater contamination
Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 (HSWA)

- Upgrade existing UST’s
- Standards for new UST’s
- Licensing required
- Maintenance for existing & new
- Philosophy - prevention
Tanks not covered

- Hazardous waste tanks (SWDA)
- Waste water treatment tanks (CWA)
- Hydraulic lift & electrical equipment tanks
- 110 gallons or less
- De minimus concentrations
- Emergency spill and overflow
Excluded from definition

- Farm or residential tanks for motor fuels, of 1,100 gallons or less
- Heating oil tanks for consumption on premises
- Septic tanks
- Pipelines regulated under other law
Excluded from definition

- Surface impoundments, pits, ponds & lagoons
- Storm or waste water collection systems
- Flow-through process tanks
- Liquid traps associated with gas or oil production
- Basement storage tanks, above floor
Requirements

- Operating
- Release detection
- Release reporting
- Reporting & cleanup of spills and overfills
- Closure
- Financial responsibility
- State programs
Financial responsibility

- Federal & state governments exempt (local government must comply)
- $1.5 - $3 million worth of assurance
- May be reduced by coverage under the Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Funds
How to meet financial responsibility requirements

- Self insurance (tangible net worth test)
- Establish a trust fund
- Guarantee
- Insurance and risk retention group coverage
- Surety bond
- Letter of credit
- Insurance pools
How to meet financial responsibility requirements

- Four additional options for local governments
- Proof must be kept at location of tank or place of business
Home Heating Oil Tanks

- Exempt, no closure requirements
- May impede property sales
- Regulated by local fire inspectors
- Leaks reported to DWM
- Non-commercial Leaking Petroleum UST Cleanup Fund