



Fuel Oil Tanks and Wildfires

Wildfire may have damaged your fuel oil tank. Oil can escape your tank during a fire, even if you can't see any damage. The fire may have burned the fuel that escaped, but it may not have.

What to look for

Look for signs of damage like dents, swelling, a change in paint colour and peeling paint.

Even if you don't see any damage, get a licensed burner technician to check your tank, lines, and appliances. They should also check that the tank is still on footings that won't burn.

What to do

If you can see fuel on the ground, stop it from moving by making a small dam around the spill.

You could also put material like clay cat litter on the area. That will soak up some of the oil.

Scoop the clay and oil into a metal can to stop it from soaking into the ground. Keep it in a well-ventilated area, like a garage. Leave the garage door open.

Wear rubber gloves and safety glasses when you work around fuel oil.

Report the spill if your tank is empty and you had more than 100 litres before the fire. Call your local office at **1-877-9ENVIRO** (1-877-936-8476).

Call your insurance company. You may have coverage for a fuel oil spill if the oil goes onto a neighbour's property, or could go there, or if it has damaged the structure of your house.

You may need help from specialised contractors such as environmental consultants. They will guide you through the process of reporting to government and assessing and fixing your damage. You can search for an environmental consultant online.

Learn more

[Home heating oil spills](#)

[General information about cleaning up spills](#)

Call your local Environment and Climate Change office at **1-877-9ENVIRO** (1-877-936-8476).