



## Tennessee Tank Talk

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### Reporting Suspected Releases

### Applying for Fund Eligibility

**\*REPORT AND APPLY\***

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#### NEW SUSPECTED RELEASE REPORTING EMAIL ADDRESS

The Division has initiated a direct email option for reporting suspected releases at [Releases.UST@tn.gov](mailto:Releases.UST@tn.gov). This process will ensure reports are documented and responded to promptly. More information can be found on the webpage at: <https://www.tn.gov/environment/ust/release.html>.

The following information must be provided when reporting a suspected release:

- UST Facility ID:
- Facility Name:
- Contact Information:
- Date and Time of Occurrence:
- Date and Time of Response:
- Describe What Happened AND Ongoing Investigation and Actions Taken:
- Attach Documentation and/or Photographs

Reporting with this email option provides the tank owner/operator with an auto-reply email response that can be retained for their records. The auto-reply email contains relevant information regarding the suspected release response process:

- Emergency response
  - [Regional field office manager contacts](#)
  - Operational compliance inspection schedule
  - [Tennessee Petroleum Fund Reimbursement Application](#) details.
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# WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A SUSPECTED RELEASE?

- Report suspected releases to the Division of Underground Storage Tanks ([Division](#)) within **72 hours**.
- Verify dispensing and release detection equipment is operating properly. If equipment is not operating properly, have it repaired or replaced and keep accurate records for each equipment repair or replacement.
- Conduct system tightness tests, or other appropriate testing. If tests indicate a release has occurred, report it to the [Division](#) within **72 hours**.
- If the system equipment is found to be defective but not leaking, is immediately repaired or replaced and additional monitoring within 30 days does not confirm the initial result, reporting would not be required.
- Submit an [Application for Fund Eligibility \(CN-0943\)](#) to [UST.Fund@tn.gov](mailto:UST.Fund@tn.gov).

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## FUND ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

Releases must be reported to the Division within 72 hours as required under Rules 0400-18-01-.05(1)(a) and 0400-18-01-.06(3)(a). Violations of these rules impact the Responsible Parties' deductible in accordance with Rule 0400-18-01-.09(6)(b)7.(iii) and set the deductible at \$30,000.00.

All fund eligible releases are entitled to reimbursement from the fund with scaled deductibles that are determined by the compliance history at the site at the time of the release. To confirm a facility's compliance status at the time of a release, the Division performs a full operational inspection within 10 days of the reported and/or discovered release. These inspection results determine the deductible a facility will receive to address a release. The deductible for sites that are compliant at the time of their release is \$5,000, while sites in noncompliance will incur a deductible of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 depending on the severity of the violations. Violations that impact the deductible amount are identified in [Rule 0400-18-01-.09\(6\)\(b\)7](#).

All tanks at the site must be registered prior to the release occurring, and the fund eligibility application must be submitted within 90 days of the discovery of a suspected release that is subsequently confirmed or within 60 days of a release that was identified in any manner other than the process for confirmation of a suspected release. The 90-day deadline applies even if confirmation of a release does not occur within 90 days of the discovery of evidence of a suspected release. An application should be filed as soon as possible after a release is suspected, even if all the confirmation steps have not been taken.

The Division issues an approval letter for fund applications that are approved with a deductible of \$5,000 or less. For fund applications that are denied or approved with a deductible of \$10,000 or more, the Division issues an administrative order, which will set the deductible and require the following:

- Release investigation and remediation,
- Correction of any outstanding violations, and
- Assessment of civil penalties for any outstanding violations and some uncorrectable violations.

Please submit all [Applications for Fund Eligibility \(CN-0943\)](#) to [UST.Fund@tn.gov](mailto:UST.Fund@tn.gov).

For more information on the current fund process, please visit the Division's website [here](#).

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## Additional Resources

[Division Updates and Outreach](#)

[Current Tennessee UST Rules](#)

[2018 Federal Rule Change Quick Reference Guide](#)

[Standardized Inspection Manual \(SIM\)](#)

[UST Contact Information](#)

[Contact Your Local Field Office](#)

[UST Forms and Guidance](#)

[EPA -Must For USTs](#)

[TDEC Underground Storage Tanks Home Page](#)

[EPA- Underground Storage Tanks Home Page](#)



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