

Before A Flood, What Should Owners And Operators Do?

In order to prevent UST system displacement and prevent water from entering the system, owners and operators should consider taking these precautions if there is a threat of flood.

- **Turn off all electricity to the UST system** including power to dispensers, pumps, turbines, automatic tank gauging (ATG) consoles, lighting, and any other system components.
- **Take product inventory and water level reading of all USTs** to help account for possible product loss.
- **Fill the tank** to weigh down the tank so it will not float out of the ground.
- **Secure all openings on top of the tank** and make sure fill caps are in good condition and fastened securely in place and locked. If fill caps are not tightened, tanks will fill with water and release product. Empty or near-empty tanks may float up, destroying overlying concrete/asphalt and distribution lines, which can also release product.
- **Make sure the seal on spill bucket plungers are operational** so water cannot enter the tank.
- **Close the shear valve on pressurized piping** to prevent releases from product dispenser lines.
- **Temporarily cap off the vent pipes** to prevent water from entering the tank and displacing product.
- **Place a dumpster, sand bags, or large containers full of sand or rock over the tank** to reduce the chance of a tank floating out of the ground.

Tank owners and operators should not fill tanks with water because they may incur additional costs for the disposal of contaminated water.