

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 263-0900-009

TITLE: Exemption from Registration Fees for Volunteer Fire Companies or Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 15, 2012

AUTHORITY: Act 32 (P.L. 169) of 1989, the State Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act, as amended.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Department of Environmental Protection (Department or DEP) to carry out the provisions of the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act of 1989, as amended.

PURPOSE: This guidance delineates the boundaries of the Volunteer Fire Companies or Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations underground storage tank registration fee exemption and provides guidance to all Storage Tanks Program staff to ensure consistency within the program.

APPLICABILITY: This guidance is applicable to Volunteer Fire Companies or Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Organizations that own underground storage tanks.

DISCLAIMER: The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DEP to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

PAGE LENGTH: 2 pages

**EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION FEES FOR
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES OR
VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) ORGANIZATIONS**

Definitions

Volunteer fire company: Any entirely volunteer nonprofit chartered corporation, association, or organization located in this Commonwealth which provides volunteer fire protection services and other voluntary emergency services within the Commonwealth and whose staff provides these services without compensation. Volunteer emergency services provided by a volunteer fire company may include voluntary ambulance and voluntary rescue services.

Volunteer emergency medical services: Any entirely volunteer nonprofit chartered corporation, association, or organization located in the Commonwealth which is regularly engaged in the service of providing voluntary emergency medical care and transportation of patients and whose staff provides these services without compensation.

Procedures

Due to the December 18, 1992, amendment to the state's Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act of 1989, Volunteer Fire Companies or Volunteer EMS Organizations are exempt from paying annual registration fees for their underground storage tanks (USTs) effective July 1, 1993.

If any fire company or EMS organization believes that they are exempt from registration fees for their USTs and requests the exemption because the owner meets either of the above-mentioned definitions, Central Office will send a blank Storage Tanks Registration/Permitting Application form (2630-PM-BECB0514) to the owner to complete and return to Central Office.

Upon receipt of the Registration form claiming the exemption, Central Office will:

1. For an existing owner - change the owner kind to "VFD" (Volunteer Fire/EMS). In addition, Central Office will credit the facility's fee account for any unpaid fees which were due after July 1, 1993.
2. For a new owner - process the information on the form and enter the owner kind as "VFD" (Volunteer Fire/EMS).

Owners who paid any registration fees due prior to July 1, 1993, are not subject to credit from the Commonwealth.

Owners of those underground storage tanks which are normally regulated, but are exempt from registration fees because of this amendment, must still maintain current registration and fulfill all other applicable requirements under the Act and the Department's regulations.

Municipalities that provide fuel for volunteer fire companies or EMS organizations from their municipally-owned underground tanks are NOT exempt from paying registration fees.

The registration fees for aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) are not affected by the amendment.