



Reporting and Investigating Suspected Underground Storage Tank (UST) Releases

Reporting a Suspected UST Release

A UST owner/operator is required to report any suspected UST release to ADEQ within 24 hours after discovery, pursuant to Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-12-251(B). Upon receipt of adequate suspected UST release information, ADEQ will issue a suspected UST release notification letter to the UST owner/operator. This letter contains reporting requirements, due dates and relevant form(s) for the UST owner/operator's information. If the suspected release is a regulated UST spill or overfill of 25 gallons or less, that is contained or cleaned up within 24 hours, the UST owner/operator is not required to report the incident to ADEQ.

Suspected Release 14-Day Report

According to A.A.C. R18-12-251(E), an UST owner/operator is required to submit a report to ADEQ within 14 calendar days after the suspected release discovery date or the suspected release notification date, whichever is earlier. To meet this requirement, the UST owner/operator may either use the *Release Status Report* attached to the above referenced ADEQ letter, or they may create their own report form. Regardless of the report's format, it must contain the information referenced in Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 49-1004(C) and A.A.C. R18-12-260(C).

Suspected Release 90-Day Report

According to A.A.C. R18-12-251(C) and (F), an UST owner/operator is required to submit a report to ADEQ within 90 calendar days of receipt of the above referenced ADEQ notification letter. The 90-Day Report must contain the information referenced in A.A.C. R18-12-251(C) and (F). Based upon the type of suspected UST release, ADEQ may require the UST owner/operator to submit information such as tank tightness test results, product piping test results, soil sampling and laboratory analytical report information, tank repair documentation, etc.

Confirming a UST Release

The investigation of a suspected UST release may show that the release is confirmed as a leaking UST (LUST) release. If this occurs, according to A.R.S. § 49-1004, the UST owner/operator must notify ADEQ of the confirmed LUST release within 24 hours of discovery. Furthermore, the UST owner/operator must take immediate action to stop the LUST release pursuant to A.R.S. § 49-1005. Actions to protect the environment may include, but not be limited to, removing any remaining product from the tank, recovering released product, or placing absorbent berms around contaminated material. Actions to protect human health may include preventing fire, explosion or vapor hazards.

More Information

For more information, please contact Nick Giuntoli at ADEQ.

By U.S. Mail:

ADEQ
UST Program #4415A-3
1110 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

By Telephone:

(602) 771-4289 or
Toll free at (800) 234-5677 Ext. 771-4289
Hearing impaired persons call
ADEQ's TDD line: (602) 771-4829

By Email:

nmg@azdeq.gov

Regulatory Citations

[Arizona Revised Statutes - Title 49, Chapter 6, Article 1](#)

A.R.S. §49-1004 – Reporting Requirements
A.R.S. §49-1005 – Corrective Action

[Arizona Administrative Code Title 18 Chapter 12](#)

R18-12-251 – Suspected Release
R18-12-260 – Release Notification and Reporting

[ADEQ UST Forms and Guidance](#)

Release Reporting Form
Release Status Report
Document Submittal Form

NOTE: This document is not a substitute for the regulations. When a UST owner/operator discovers a suspected UST release, compliance with the applicable provisions in A.R.S. § 49 Chapter 6, and A.A.C. R18 Chapter 12, is mandatory. This fact sheet is intended solely to provide basic guidance.