

Storage Tower/Tank Cleaning

By Mike Stanzel

Cleaning of your storage tank, tower or vault is one part of your job that can easily be overlooked. The requirements of title 179 state that cleaning and inspection needs to be performed once every 5 years. Sometimes this can cause an inconvenience to operators, as well as, financial stress on systems. If it has been a while since your last inspection, now is the time to inform your board that they need to start budgeting for this expense. Here are some tips that will hopefully help your project go smoothly.

1. Before you start make sure you use a reputable contractor. There are several out there, so take some time and research their past work and call other operators to see if they were satisfied with their work. Some companies offer a maintenance agreement that they can come out and inspect on a regular basis for a yearly price.
2. Get a signed contract that states in writing what they are responsible for. For example -- who is going to take the required bacti samples?
3. Make sure you have the equipment needed prior to the start of the project. This may include but not limited to: pressure gauges, pressure relief valves, chlorinators, chlorine residual testers, extra sample bottles.
4. Also check the weather forecast. You may not want to take a tower or tank out of service if adverse weather conditions may delay getting the system back online.
5. Check with the contractor first to determine whether they need to install a larger access way. This will obviously take longer to install and sometimes can be quite costly. But safety regulations require this to be done prior to accessing the tank.
6. Determine where you will place your pressure relief valves. Most systems will be pumping their wells directly into the system and the water not consumed will blow off at the hydrant. You want to make sure that this excess water has a place to flow and not cause any damage to property. Also you need to take into consideration, is it running across a street and will freezing temperatures cause icy roads?
7. Make sure you notify all your residents. This might encourage conservation during the project and might prevent a phone call in the middle of the night stating water is running down the street.
8. Most importantly notify your local and neighboring Fire Departments that there might not be sufficient amounts of water for fire fighting. This way they can have prior arrangements made with other departments to truck in water in case of fire.
9. Lastly keep in good contact with the Village Office or City Hall. They usually get quite a few phone calls from residents and they will be better prepared to answer questions if you keep them informed.

If you need assistance with preparing your system for cleaning please let us know. Also we have pressure relief valves and chlorinating equipment if needed.