



Fuel Oil Tanks and Wildfires

Your fuel oil tank may have been affected during a wildfire.

1. There are several ways oil can escape your tank during a fire, even if you can't see any damage to your tank. Released fuel may or may not have been consumed by the fire.
2. Dents, swelling, discoloration and peeling paint are all signs of damage. Even if you don't see any damage, it is a good idea to have a licensed burner technician check your tank, lines, and appliances. Tanks should also be checked to see if they are still well supported on non-combustible footings. More information on fuel safety can be found on Labour, Skills and Immigration website <https://novascotia.ca/lae/fuelsafety/>
3. If fuel is visible on the ground, contain the spill, by constructing a small berm or placing absorbent material like cat litter on the area. If safe, scoop any absorbed material into a metal container to prevent it from entering the environment. Keep any spilled or absorbed material in a well-ventilated area.
4. If your tank is empty and you had more than 100 litres or 1/10 of a tank before the fire you should contact your local Department of Environment and Climate Change office to report the spill. <https://novascotia.ca/nse/dept/regional-office-locations.asp> . Depending on the information you provide, an Environment Officer may visit your property or provide other instructions. You may be required to complete a Notification form: https://novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/docs/FRM100_Notification_of_Free_Product_or_Contamination_Form.pdf
5. Contact your insurance company. Coverage for fuel oil spills may apply if the oil has migrated to a neighbouring property or is at risk of doing so, or if it has damaged your home (i.e., the building structure itself).

6. You may require the services of specialised contractors such as environmental consultants or a site professional. A site professional will help guide you through the contaminated sites process regarding notification, assessment, and remediation. Not all spills require a homeowner to follow the Contaminated Sites Regulations. You can search “environmental consultant” in an internet search engine, like Google.

7. More information for homeowners with fuel spills is available on the Environment and Climate Change website at <https://novascotia.ca/nse/contaminatedsites/domestic.asp>, or you can call your local Environment and Climate Change office at **1-877-9ENVIRO (1-877-936-8476)**.