

# ON-SITE INSIGHT

THIRD QUARTER 2015

A PUBLICATION FOR ON-SITE SEPTIC PROFESSIONALS

AUGUST 13, 2015



## Share septic safety tips and save lives



Cracked septic tank lid.

around any septic tank lids. Tell customers to avoid building structures over the drain field, and not to park cars or heavy equipment on the drain field.

Encourage customers to walk their property routinely to check the drain field and down slope areas for broken equipment, holes, odors, wet spots or surfacing sewage. Exposure to the bacteria in sewage is a health risk for people, pets and the environment.

Prevent injuries and falls into the tank—check that any septic tank lids properly cover the opening and are secure and durable, and check for damages and cracks. For a septic safety handout to share with your customers, see [www.tpchd.org/septicsafety](http://www.tpchd.org/septicsafety).

Conducting thorough inspections and educating your customers on septic safety can save lives. Show customers where their septic system is located and let them know that children and pets should not play

Prevent injuries and falls into the tank.

[www.tpchd.org/septicsafety](http://www.tpchd.org/septicsafety)

## Teach customers the difference between inspections and pumping

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department notifies homeowners with high risk septic systems when their system is due for an inspection. But sometimes, homeowners interpret the required inspection as a need for pumping.

Please confirm with your potential customers whether the service they request is the service they need. Teach them the difference between an inspection and a pumping. Ask whether they received a notice from the Health Department, and read it to verify what is required. This simple step can help avoid unnecessary work.



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# OSS Compliance Corner

Annual certification required on interim storage tanks  
(Environmental Health Code, Chapter 2, On-Site Sewage, Section 48:D2-3)

Certified O&M pumping firms using above- or below-ground temporary storage tanks—whether at the primary place of business or elsewhere—must comply with our annual certification requirements.

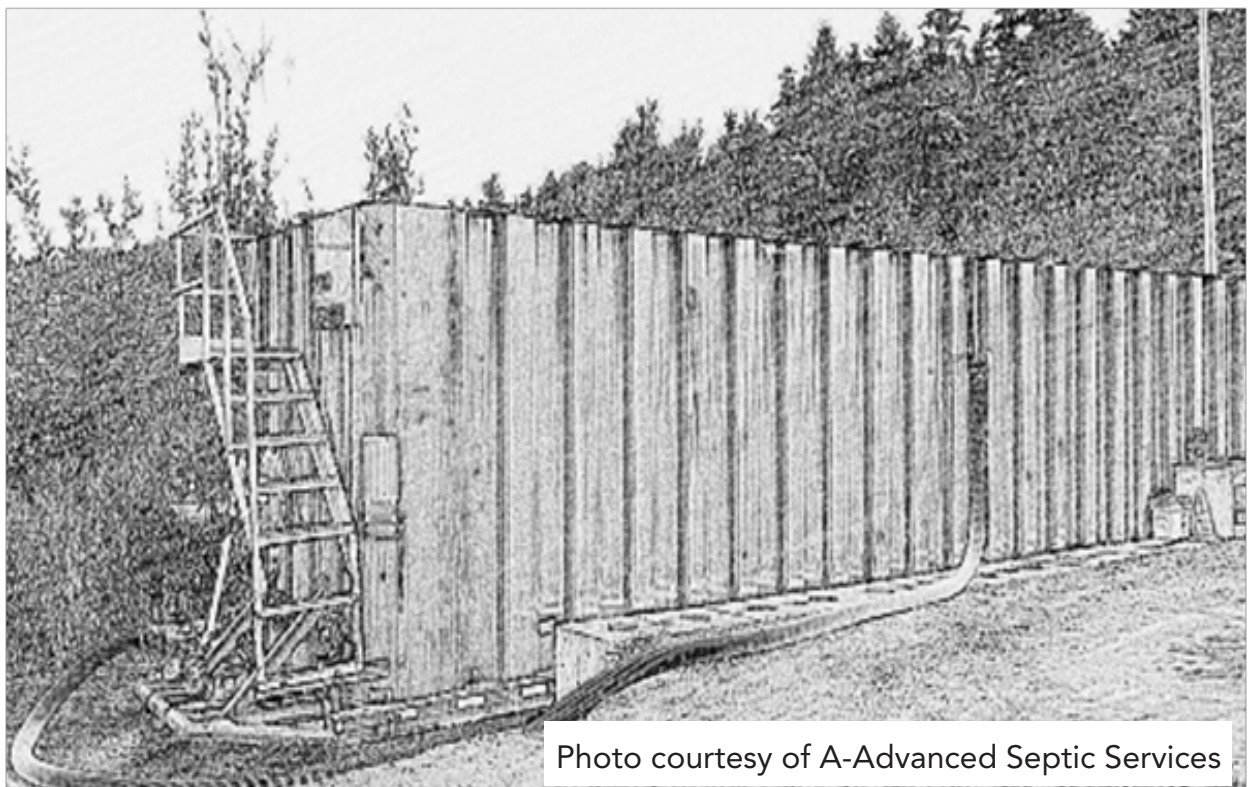
Similar to septage and portable toilet pump truck certification, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department officer must inspect all above-ground storage tanks or tankers (e.g., Baker, Frac). We also accept Public Health–Seattle & King County Health inspections if conducted within 90 days of the firm’s initial certification or official renewal due date.

In Pierce County, we require all O&M pumping firms using interim underground storage tanks to submit a pressure or leak test for each tank. Firms must submit a professional engineer’s certification within 90 days of initial or renewal certification. The report must show that the tanks are watertight for continual use.

Contact [Renée Avelino](#), (253) 798-2831 with questions about storage tank requirements.

Environmental Health Code,  
Chapter 2  
On-Site Sewage, Section 48:D2-3

Annual certification required  
on interim storage tanks



## Welcome, Tracy!



Welcome to our new Environmental Health Technician, Tracy Jones, who replaces Kiran Singh. Tracy is excited to be a part of the On-Site team and work with the industry and the public. Her role includes receiving and reviewing OnlineRME deficient reports and following up with property owners, EMMRs and septic tank decommissioning certificates. Tracy will continue to rely on the industry to provide up-to-date OnlineRME reports which must include clear comments. Reach Tracy at [Tracy Jones](mailto:Tracy.Jones@tpchd.org), (253) 798-4435.

## No work allowed on active meth properties

Contaminated meth lab sites are listed at [www.tpchd.org/methlabs](http://www.tpchd.org/methlabs). Active sites are in bold on page 1. Active designation means no trespassing is allowed, and no septic work or pumping is to take place on the property. Questions? Contact [Joe Gallagher](mailto:Joe.Gallagher@tpchd.org), (253) 798-6566.

## Water Letter required with septic design applications

We require a valid water availability letter to obtain water approval for your septic design application.

The water letter must include:

1. Property site address and parcel number for the specific property being developed.
2. The water purveyor's final signature that is less than three years old.

We do not accept water letters from recent plats with multiple addresses. Questions? Contact [Rich Dickerson](mailto:Rich.Dickerson@tpchd.org), (253) 798-2885.



**Quick questions? Call new status line**

If you are already working directly with field staff, continue to do so—but call our new status line at (253) 798-6056 if you have quick On-Site application questions or status checks.

# Connecting you and your customers with helpful info!

- On-Site program's main page: [www.tpchd.org/septic](http://www.tpchd.org/septic)
- List of On-Site staff: [www.tpchd.org/staff](http://www.tpchd.org/staff)
- O&M brochure: [www.tpchd.org/OMBrochure](http://www.tpchd.org/OMBrochure)
- RSS information: [www.tpchd.org/RSS](http://www.tpchd.org/RSS)
- RSS brochure: [www.tpchd.org/RSSbrochure](http://www.tpchd.org/RSSbrochure)
- List of financial septic help: [www.tpchd.org/septichelp](http://www.tpchd.org/septichelp)
- Clean Water Loan with Craft3: [www.tpchd.org/cleanwaterloan](http://www.tpchd.org/cleanwaterloan)
- Past On-Site Insight issues (bottom of page): [www.tpchd.org/onsiteinsight](http://www.tpchd.org/onsiteinsight)
- To find record drawing: [www.tpchd.org/asbuilt.php](http://www.tpchd.org/asbuilt.php)
- Septic safety handout: [www.tpchd.org/septicsafety](http://www.tpchd.org/septicsafety)
- Contaminated meth lab sites: [www.tpchd.org/methlabs](http://www.tpchd.org/methlabs)

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department offices will be closed in observance of these holidays:

- Sep. 7–Labor Day
- Nov. 11–Veterans Day
- Nov. 26 & 27–Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24 (half day) & 25–Christmas
- Dec. 31 (half day)–New Year's Eve
- Jan. 1–New Year's Day

## On-Site Program Statistics

TYPE	Full Year 2014	Thus far 2015
Building Site Applications	517	402
Remodel	365	234
Repair	254	157
Report of System Status	3,966	2,891
RME Inspection Reports	10,938	7,281
RME Pumping Reports	8,398	4,954
EMMR	1,209	805

## On-Site Sewage and Well Permitting Program Staff

### On-Site General Information

- Extended Maintenance/Minor Repair (EMMR)
- Report of System Status (RSS)
- Stub Out/Final

Anne Harrington  
 Emma McDaniel  
 Gary Porter  
 George Waun  
 Greg Alton  
 Jackie Parker  
 Jihae Yi  
 Kristen Farley  
 Laurel parshall  
 Leigh McIntire  
 Monica Roppo  
 Peggy McMurtrie  
 Renée Avelino  
 Rich Dickerson  
 Robert (Bob) Suggs  
 Tanya Roberts  
 Tina Friedrich  
 Tracy Jones  
 Vergia Seabrook

Professional Certification  
 Operation and Maintenance  
 Program Manager  
 OSS Field Specialist Lead III  
 OSS Field Specialist  
 Application Processing  
 Education/Outreach/Marketing  
 OSS Field Tech  
 Asbuilt Lookup/Permits/Finals  
 OSS Field Specialist Lead II  
 OSS Field Specialist  
 RSS Compliance  
 OSS Compliance  
 Well Permitting Specialist Lead II  
 OSS Field Specialist  
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 OSS Field Specialist  
 OSS Office  
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