

## CHAPTER 363

### ABANDONED CISTERNS AND TANKS

#### 363-1

#### Definitions

The following definitions, as used herein, shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this chapter:

**"Cistern"** means a self-contained reservoir used for the purpose of collection and temporary storage of a potable water supply.

**"Holding Tank"** means a self-contained reservoir used for the purposes of collection and temporary storage of sewage wastes prior to proper disposal.

**"Septic Tank"** means a structure into which sewage is discharged for settling and solids digestion.

**"Underground Storage Tank"** means any structure or reservoir below the surface of the ground used for the purpose of storage of any type of liquid or semi-liquid products.

**"Well"** means any pit, hole or shaft which is dug or drilled to obtain water, oil, gas, brine or other liquid or gas substance.

#### 363-2

#### Abandoned Cisterns, Septic and Other Storage Tanks

Any person temporarily or permanently abandoning a cistern or septic tank where entry thereto is possible by members of the public shall do so in compliance with the Indiana State Department of Health's "Protocol for Onsite Sewage System Abandonment", and any amendment or replacement of this protocol document. Compliance requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) Disconnect power at the source to all electrical controls and remove all controls and panels. Remove all electrical lines (including buried service lines) that will not be used for other purposes;

(B) Have a licensed septic tank cleaner pump all contents from all tanks in the system;

(C) Remove the tanks or crush the lids into the tanks;

(D) Backfill the holes or tanks with debris free sand or other granular material, concrete, or soil material that is compacted to prevent settling. If a sand mound or at-grade system is being abandoned, sand, aggregate, and soil cover from the system may be used for filling the tank(s); and

(E) Properly grade and establish vegetative cover.

**363-3****Abandoned Wells**

Any person temporarily or permanently abandoning a well where entry thereto is possible by members of the public shall follow the Indiana Department of Natural Resources' "Landowner Responsibility for Abandonment and Plugging of Wells", and any amendment or replacement of this document. Compliance requirements include, but are not limited to, the following:

(A) A well which has not been used for more than three (3) months must be sealed at or above the ground surface by a welded, threaded, or mechanically attached watertight cap; and

(B) The well shall be maintained so that the well does not become a source or channel of ground water contamination.

**363-4****Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks**

Underground storage tanks are under the jurisdiction of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and any abandoned underground storage tanks are subject to IDEM regulations.

**363-5****Violations and Penalties**

A person who violates any provision of this Chapter commits a Class C Ordinance Violation.