

Eastham Fire Department & Rescue Services

2520 State Highway, Eastham, MA 02642

Homeowner Summary of Revisions to Eastham Fuel Oil Storage System Regulations

As most Eastham residents know, our drinking water supply comes entirely from private onsite wells. It is essential that we do all we can to **prevent** contamination of the groundwater aquifer to protect this resource. Oil releases from single family homes have occurred in Eastham. Within nine months, Eastham had four oil releases that required professional cleanup. In Eastham cleanup costs have varied from \$30,000 to \$100,000 or more. Recent releases have prompted the Eastham Fire Department and Eastham Board of Health to adopt revisions to existing regulations to further promote protection of ground water and surface waters.

Reasons to upgrade your oil tank and fuel lines:

- Protect your drinking water and the environment
- Maintain property value
- Minimize cleanup costs
- Comply with Eastham Board of Health and Eastham Fire Department regulations

New regulations require:

1. Double-walled fuel storage tanks or Eastham Fire Department approved secondary containment for **all new construction**. Exterior tanks must have concrete pads and provide cover.
2. Transfer of property triggers upgrade of ALL single-walled fuel storage tanks (inside and outside) to double-walled tanks. In addition, outside tanks must have concrete pads and provide cover.
3. Unprotected underground copper lines must be upgraded to sleeved lines whenever property is transferred OR work to heating system is performed.
4. If the tank is less than 10 years of age, the property may transfer if the homeowner fills out a **Variance Request Form** available at Eastham Health Department. **However, when the tank reaches 10 years of age, the tank must be replaced.**
5. Replacement must be done by a Massachusetts licensed plumbing/heating contractor or contact your full service oil dealer for compliance to these regulations.

For more information, call Jane Crowley at Eastham Health Department (508) 240-5900