

TOPIC:

LUSTS (Leaking Underground Storage Tanks)

Overview

LUSTs are found throughout Indiana. Since 1989, just over 10,000 incidents have been reported. The majority of these releases have been investigated and cleaned up. To date, there are still 1,391 active sites in Indiana, where there has been a release of substances, such as petroleum products like gasoline and diesel fuel. About 276 are considered high priority, meaning that there is, or has been, a serious threat to public health or the environment---for instance, explosive vapors in a sewer, or free hydrocarbons leaching into a stream. About 645 more are listed as medium priority in which both soil and ground water are contaminated, but there is no imminent threat. The rest are considered low priority, where soil contamination is present but no contaminated ground water has been identified. Many of these sites, especially the low-priority ones, are not being currently investigated. In addition, new releases are reported frequently.

Impacts on Our Water

Over 900 LUST sites in Indiana have known ground water contamination. While many sites are located in urban areas with public water supplies, some are located in areas without public utilities. Homes and businesses surrounding these sites may use private wells for drinking water. Although the area of contaminated ground water has been delineated at many of the sites, some reported releases have not been thoroughly investigated. This means that there could be private wells at risk of contamination.

More Information

www.in.gov/idem/tanks

Indiana Department of Environmental Management



Removal of an underground storage tank



LUSTs can cause significant contamination