

Contaminated environments

Underground petroleum storage systems

Leaks of petroleum from an underground petroleum storage system (UPSS) can contaminate the soil, groundwater, surface water and air.

As some of the components of petroleum are very toxic and carcinogenic, for example benzene, the release of petroleum-based substances into the environment poses significant risks to the health of humans and ecosystems.

Environment Protection Authority Victoria has been involved in many instances where failure of a UPSS has resulted in petroleum leaking into the environment.

What is EPA doing about it?

EPA is taking a close look at the service station industry to find out more about how operators manage their underground petroleum storage systems.

We'll work with the industry to increase:

- awareness of environmental health and financial risks
- understanding of management obligations
- the detection and enforcement of non-compliance.

How leaking underground petroleum storage systems affect our environment

