

To: LUTplan@co.washington.or.us  
CC: [Pam Treece@co.washington.or.us](mailto:Pam_Treece@co.washington.or.us)  
Subject: Gas Station Siting Restrictions for Sensitive Areas

**2022-02-23**

Hello Washington County Land Use Staff-

We are citizens and organizations that want to see Washington County put land use restrictions on gas stations near sensitive areas. Data from Oregon DEQ, Federal EPA, and other organizations clearly show the economic, health, and environmental risks that gas stations and their underground petroleum tanks pose ([see reports](#)). And land use restrictions are the right tool to reduce and isolate these risks from sensitive public and private lands.

In fact, many other municipalities have made similar land use code updates coast-to-coast from Petaluma, California to Montgomery County, Maryland ([see municipal codes](#)).

**Our request:** We want Washington County land use codes updated to require that gas stations, currently operating gas stations excluded, be a minimum of 1,500 feet from any public park or playground, school, hospital, church, theater, dwelling unit, public library or building for public assembly; or any wetland, stream, river, flood plain, or environmentally sensitive area. We also want to see this applied to all zones across the County without an option for variance to ensure equitable and objective application of this requirement.

We believe this is an urgent issue: here are just two catastrophic examples from 2021 of how gas station storage can fail and endanger public lands and infrastructure:

- 14,000 gallons were released under Highway 99 in Monmouth Oregon April 2021. This caused damage to public property, ground water, created traffic issues, and incalculable ecological damage. ([Oregon DEQ Blog](#))
- 1,300 gallons of fuel leaked after a driver hit a gas pump in Pasadena California in December 2021. The fuel was pulled into the Alhambra wash where hazmat crews did their best to clean up the spill ([video](#), [news](#)).

We have a shared belief that land use codes should both encourage economic development and “provide for the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of Washington County” as the Washington County Community Development Code states ([municode](#)). And we believe that the data and reports we have provided supports the case for restricting gas station siting to promote the health, safety and welfare of the County.

Enclosed:

- Frequently Asked Questions
- 2 Letters from Tualatin Riverkeepers
- 1 Letter from 350 PDX Washington County

- 1 Letter from Washington County Treekeepers
- Example gas station setback municipal codes
- Summary of economic, environmental, and leak reports

Thank You,

Brandon Philips  
Lead Organizer

**130 Signers of the Letter**

(addresses for signatures available to the County)

Robert Satchell

Saori Satchell

Nicola Robertson

Susan Mates

Karen Smith

Jason Burdge

Lisa Ritter

Daryl Nishida

Heidi Nishida

Mindy Kondo

Jane Burch-Pesses

Cheryl Grilli

Pratik Koirala

John Hembroff

Sharon MacDonald

Vijay Bhat

Audrey Farrell

Chris Oliver

Marilyn Speirn

Paul D Robillard

Susannah E Robillard

Sara Bhat

Krista Reynolds

Richard Reynolds

Sydney Richey

Del Pellicano

Marilyn Bramwell

Mary Manseau

Vicky Siah

Dian Kubo

Masako Jankovsky

Tomas Jankovsky

Anne Goetz

George Cabaniss

Elizabeth Butcher

Charles Pfeiffer

Cheryl Labavitch

Marilynn Robillard

Michael E. Wille

Carey K. Wille

Shirley Toth

Alex Toth

Steven Birkel

Louise Watkins

Alan

KJ John

Jennifer Carter

Sara Bosch

Tess Strand

Yvonne Wilson

Brett Campbell

Maria Choban

Monica Spisla

Virginia Bruce

Nicole Bender

Colleen Bogard

Marilyn Martin

Melissa Martin

Marta Amar

Tanya Rosencrance

Paul Kwitek

Maureen O'Rourke

Pat Sandquist

Roger Sandquist

Shelley Signett

Peggy Erick

Thom Cheney

Dan Silver

Benjamin Silver

Daniel Silver

Elizabeth Silver

Madeleine Silver

Nathaniel Silver

Anne Ashton Goldfeld, MSW, MPH

Debra Gisler

Carole Maloney

John Maloney

Michael Maloney

Timothy K Maloney

Samantha Domenach

Marc Herbert

Thomas Kiley

Daniel Zimmerman

Vijay Agrawal

Brittyn Lindsey

Kelsey Lemons

Peter Oliver

Katie Murry

Lisa Cairns

Peggy Bodner

Susan Nolte

Dan Penrod

Susan Penrod

Kaye Gardner-O'Kearny

William Gardner-O'Kearny

Brandon Philips

Nisha George

Amy Westfall

Allen Morgan

Claire Morgan

Maristela Fuke

Sallie Fogarty

Joanne Dunatchik

Linda Bucsay Welsh

Maggie Myers

Ken Jackson

Lindsey Bailey

Kathryn Oliver-Garnett

Jessica Fox

Colin Fox

Maureen Dannen

Jean Fox

Maria Gabriela Buamscha

Samuel Golden

Barbara Olson

Bob Steele

Niki Steele

Fenghua Liu

Hayley Johanesen

Jamie Shields

Jodi Bean

John Blyler

Joseph and Weilan Ladeau

Kira Wright

Lee Grunes

Lisa Haworth

Maureen Dannen

Mesut Ali Ergin

Patricia Burros

Robert Elliott

Teresa Hill

Mark Bartee

Hillary Moldovan

Liane Ledbetter

# FAQ

Q: How did you arrive at the 1,500ft setback requirement?

A: We chose 1,500 ft setback because it was the highest municipal restriction we had found in our research short of an outright ban on new gas stations. For example it is the setback in Rock Hill, CT. The minimum consensus amongst municipalities we researched seems to be around 500 ft. You can see a few examples and direct links to example codes on this page:

<https://www.postpump.org/gas-station-land-use-codes>

Q: Is there Washington County Community Participation Organization (CPO) engagement?

A: Yes, presentations were made in Feb. 2022 to both CPO1 and CPO7. There was positive reception at both meetings and many members signed the letter after the meetings.

Q: Are County Commissioners aware of these requests?

A: Yes, a number of public comments have been made on the topic to both the Board of Commissioners and the Planning Commission.

Q: Do you understand that future changes to land use code will not affect accepted land use applications?

A: Yes. Although this campaign is an offshoot of the opposition to Land Use Case L2100244 we understand that any changes to code will not affect the outcome of this case. However, we are motivated to ensure that gas station developments with the potential negative economic, environmental, and health impacts of that development are not considered again in Washington County.



Treekeepers of Washington County  
835 SW Touchmark Way  
Portland, OR 97225

February 19, 2022

Board of County Commissioners  
Washington County  
155 N First Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

**Re: Adding Gas/Fuel Station Setbacks to Municipal Code**

Dear Chair Harrington and Commissioners,

Treekeepers of Washington County is a volunteer organization with a mission to protect and advocate for mature trees. Those trees depend on the health of their surrounding watershed. We write today to entreat the Board of Commissioners to strengthen protections for wetlands and other sensitive areas by requiring fuel station setbacks from sensitive areas. The upland area surrounding the wetland is essential to its survival of functionality. A setback of 300-500'—even a minimum of 100'—would help prevent these areas from the dangers related to underground storage tanks.

A well-designed buffer can protect and maintain wetland functions by removing sediments and associated pollutants from surface water runoff, removing, detaining, or detoxifying nutrients and contaminants from upland sources, influencing the temperature and microclimate of a water body, and providing organic matter to the wetland. As our governing body, you have the opportunity to conserve these resource lands from activities and development that might impair their benefits to our community and the environment.

At our February meeting, our Treekeepers of Washington County core team members voted to approve the following request:

“We respectfully request the Washington County Community Development Code be updated to require all new gas stations or expansion of existing stations be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from any public park or playground, school, hospital, church, theater, dwelling unit, public library, or building for public assembly; or any wetland, stream, river, flood plain, or environmentally sensitive area. This code change should be applied to all zones

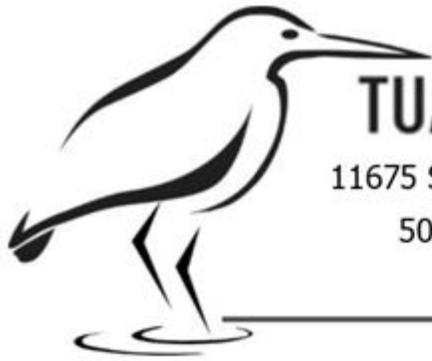
across the county without an option for variance to ensure equitable and objective application of this requirement.”

Thank you for considering this code change.

Sincerely,  
Susan Mates  
Outreach Projects and Communication  
Treekeepers of Washington County  
treescountwc@gmail.com

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[https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-03/documents/final\\_40.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2014-03/documents/final_40.pdf)



## TUALATIN RIVERKEEPERS.

11675 SW Hazelbrook Road, Tualatin, Oregon 97062

503-218-2580 • tualatinriverkeepers.org

info@tualatinriverkeepers.org

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November 19, 2021

Board of County Commissioners  
Washington County  
155 N. First Ave  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

*Submitted via email*

### **Re: Consider Adding Gas/Fuel Station Setbacks to Municipal Code**

Chair Harrington and Commissioners:

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. We write today to urge the Board of Commissioners to take steps to better protect wetlands and other sensitive areas by requiring fuel station setbacks from sensitive lands of at least 100 feet, ideally 500 feet. A setback of at least 100 feet will help ensure wetlands do not suffer costly damage from underground storage tank leaks in addition to somewhat mitigating their other potential impacts on wetlands and sensitive species including stormwater, light pollution, noise pollution, etc.<sup>1</sup>

Adding this type of protection into the municipal code is a sensible solution that many community members will likely support and appreciate. As you know, many community members are very concerned when a fuel station is proposed to be located directly next to a wetland or sensitive area. Those concerns are with good reason. If an underground tank were to leak the damage would impact the wetlands and species reliant on those wetlands and be very costly to clean up. Small precautions like a setback of at least 100 feet would help address these valid concerns which have been voiced in several land use application processes including but not limited to the recently proposed Chevron at 185th & West Union.

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<sup>1</sup> Note, a 500-foot setback would better mitigate noise and light impacts on sensitive species than a 100-foot setback.

The use of setbacks for fuel stations is not a new idea, communities across the United States<sup>2</sup> have taken such measures to protect sensitive lands. Those communities' codes could be used as a blueprint to help alleviate stress on Land Use and Transportation staff's valuable time. We encourage the Board of Commissioners to be responsive to the community and adopt a setback for fuel stations of at least 100 feet from wetland and sensitive areas.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Ashley Short  
Tualatin Riverkeeper & In-House Counsel  
Tualatin Riverkeepers  
[Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org)

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<sup>2</sup> For example, Montgomery County, Maryland requires large fuel stations have a 500 foot setback from residential, park, wetland and environmentally sensitive areas. (Section 3.5.13.C.2.c : [https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco\\_md\\_zone2014/0-0-0-2044](https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/montgomerycounty/latest/montgomeryco_md_zone2014/0-0-0-2044))



11675 SW Hazelbrook Road | Tualatin, OR | 97062 | (503) 218 2580 | [tualatinriverkeepers.org](http://tualatinriverkeepers.org) | [info@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:info@tualatinriverkeepers.org)

February 15, 2022

Board of County Commissioners  
Washington County  
155 N. First Ave  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

*Submitted via email*

**Re: Consider Adding Gas/Fuel Station Setbacks to Municipal Code**

Chair Harrington and Commissioners:

Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK) is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. We write today to amend our earlier letter dated Nov. 19, 2021. In that November letter we urged the Board of Commissioners to take steps to better protect wetlands and other sensitive areas by requiring fuel station setbacks from sensitive lands of at least 100 feet, ideally 500 feet. After further research by partners and community members, TRK would like to amend that ask and instead request a 1,500-foot setback for wetlands and other sensitive lands from fuel stations as this is the largest buffer used by other communities across the country. We feel like this larger buffer will better accomplish the goals outlined in our Nov. 19 letter.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Ashley Short  
Tualatin Riverkeeper & In-House Counsel  
Tualatin Riverkeepers  
[Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org](mailto:Ashley@tualatinriverkeepers.org)



February 17, 2022

Washington County Board of Commissioners  
155 N First Avenue  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Dear Chair Harrington and Commissioners,

At our monthly meeting on February 8, 2022, the 350.org Washington County grassroots climate activist members voted to approve the following request:

“We respectfully request the Washington County Community Development Code be updated to require all new gas stations or expansion of existing stations be located a minimum of 1,500 feet from any public park or playground, school, hospital, church, theater, dwelling unit, public library, or building for public assembly; or any wetland, stream, river, flood plain, or environmentally sensitive area. This code change should be applied to all zones across the county without an option for variance to ensure equitable and objective application of this requirement.”

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request for this code change.

Sincerely,

*Debby Garman*

350WashCo Team Lead

CC via email:

andy\_back@co.washington.or.us

stephen\_roberts@co.washington.or.us

# Post Pump

Gas/Fuel/Service Station Land Use & Zoning for an EV World

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[Home](#) / Gas Station Land Use Codes

## Gas Station Land Use Codes

This is a collection of gas/fuel/service station land use codes from different towns and counties across the United States. In their various forms they protect people, public property, and watersheds from the risks of gas stations.

If you have additions or correction please email [brandon@postpump.org](mailto:brandon@postpump.org)

### Petaluma, California

**Summary:** No new construction of fuel stations anywhere in the city.

[Source](#) - note all zones Fuel Stations are marked as "Use Not Allowed"

Commercial, Business Park, and Industrial Zones						
TABLE 4.4 Allowed Land Uses and Permit Requirements for Commercial, Business Park, and Industrial Zones	P(16)	Permitted Use				
	CUP	Conditional Use Permit Required				
	S	Permit Requirement in Specific Use Regulations				
	A	Accessory Use				
	—	Use Not Allowed				
LAND USE TYPE (1)	Permit Required by Zone				Specific Use Regulations	
	C1	C2	BP	I		
Fueling Station/Gas Station	—	—	—	—		

## Rocky Hill, Connecticut

**Summary:** No gasoline or diesel filling station shall be erected less than 1,500 feet from any part of any lot or plot of a public park or playground, school, hospital, church, theater, public library or building for public assembly.

[Source](#)

### 6.1.2 Separation Distances

1. **General Separation Distances** - No automotive service station or establishment for the sale of new or used automobiles shall be located:
  - a. Within 500 feet of any entrance to a public park or playground, excluding small park areas within the boundaries of a highway, or
  - b. Within 500 feet of the nearest point of any building in which there is established or maintained a school, hospital, church, theater, public library or building for public assembly.

If any of the above-mentioned uses shall locate within 500 feet of any existing automotive service station or establishment for the sale of new or used automobiles, such location shall not result in the automotive use becoming non-conforming.

2. **Fuel Separation Distances** - No gasoline or diesel filling station shall be erected less than 1,500 feet from any part of any lot or plot used for the above stated purposes.

## Harper Woods, Michigan

**Summary:** Gasoline or service stations shall not be operated, existing stations excepted, within five hundred (500) feet from places of public assembly, nor shall any gasoline service station be located, existing stations excepted, within seven hundred fifty (750) feet measured along the same side of the street, to an existing gasoline service station.

[Source](#)

## Sec. 12-72. - Location restrictions.



Gasoline or service stations shall not be operated, existing stations excepted, within five hundred (500) feet from places of public assembly, nor shall any gasoline service station be located, existing stations excepted, within seven hundred fifty (750) feet measured along the same side of the street, to an existing gasoline service station.

(Code 1962, § 3-403(i))

## Clarkston, GA

**Summary:** There shall be a minimum distance of five hundred (500) feet measured from the nearest points of lot boundaries between a proposed gasoline service station and any existing gasoline service station or between a proposed gasoline service station and any lot occupied by a church, hospital, school, or other place of public assembly.

[Source](#)

## Sec. 9.5-11. - Location.



There shall be a minimum distance of five hundred (500) feet measured from the nearest points of lot boundaries between a proposed gasoline service station and any existing gasoline service station or between a proposed gasoline service station and any lot occupied by a church, hospital, school, or other place of public assembly.

(Ord. No. 131, § 1, 11-4-86)

## Montgomery County, Maryland

**Summary:** Any filling station facility designed to dispense a minimum of 3.6 million gallons per year must be located at least 500 feet from the lot line of any land with a dwelling unit; public or private school; park; playground; day care center; any outdoor use categorized as a Civic and Institutional use or a Recreation and Entertainment use; or any wetland, stream, river, flood plain, or environmentally sensitive area.

> [Montgo...](#) > [Section 3.5.13...](#)



c. Any Filling Station facility designed to dispense a minimum of 3.6 million gallons per year must be located at least 500 feet from the lot line of any land with a dwelling unit; public or private school; park; playground; day care center; any outdoor use categorized as a Civic and Institutional use or a Recreation and Entertainment use; or any wetland, stream, river, flood plain, or environmentally sensitive area.

See also the Montgomery County [council documents](#), [staff opinion](#), and [special appeals opinion](#)

## Borough of Bergenfield, New Jersey

**Summary:** No gas station, or vehicular repair service shop shall be located within 300 feet of the following uses when located along the same street or the same block: schools, playgrounds, churches, hospitals, libraries, institutions for dependent children, or other similar places of public assembly.

### [Source](#)

§ 186-68 **Gasoline stations.**

Gasoline stations are defined, for purposes of this article, as any retail facility dispensing or selling fuel for the operation of motor vehicles.

- A.** Location of exits and entrances. No gas station, or vehicular repair service shop shall be located within 300 feet of the following uses when located along the same street or the same block: schools, playgrounds, churches, hospitals, libraries, institutions for dependent children, or other similar places of public assembly.
-

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## Reports and Research

Do you have a suggestion on data to add? Please email [brandon@postpump.org](mailto:brandon@postpump.org)

## Frequency of Leaks

### Oregon DEQ Annual Leak Report, 2021

Oregon DEQ reported 50 Underground Storage Tank releases between October 1st 2020 and September 30th 2021 in their [annual report](#). For a sense of scale, 50 leaks means 2.8% of the 1,796 regulated Oregon Underground Storage Tank facilities leaked in one year. And many of the leaks in the DEQ database are not detected until the tank is decommissioned. Also, it is worth understanding from the Oregon DEQ annual report that even if the tank itself is working perfectly USTs can leak from their dispensers, piping, or have spills caused from delivery hardware.

Source			Causes													
			Spill		Overfill		Phys/Mech Damage		Corrosion		Install Problem		Other		Unknown	
#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
Tank	20	40%	0	0%	1	2%	1	2%	8	16%	0	0%	0	0%	10	20%
Piping	6	12%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%	2	4%	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%
Dispenser	4	8%	1	2%	1	2%	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
STP	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Delivery Problem	1	2%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%
Other	16	32%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	4	8%	12	24%
Unknown	3	6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	2%	2	4%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50%</b>

# = number, % = percent of total number

## Summary of State Programs and Data on Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks and Facilities, 2017

This report has a lot of data from a bunch of different states. Unfortunately, due to the use of averages, no information on cleanup requirements, and the wide range of dates covered no useful conclusions can really be drawn from the report. It is included for completeness primarily and as a reference for to the variety of State laws that apply to USTs.

- [Summary of State Programs and Data on Abandoned Underground Storage Tanks and Facilities](#)

## Economic

The total cost of gas station cleanup can be difficult to find. If the government has to step in the number of involved agencies and funding sources often complicate matters. However, we are trying our best to find examples.

### Senz Automotive Service, Yamhill Oregon

In November 2021 Brandon Philips made a public records request for Senz Automotive Service in Yamhill, Oregon. This site has a long and complex cleanup history with thousands of gallons of petroleum products lost which contaminated on-site soil, groundwater, and neighboring properties. So, far Oregon DEQ's cleanup costs have been **\$514,466.53**. However, the cleanup is not complete and the damage to adjacent property values due to contamination is difficult to calculate.

- [Oregon DEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank](#)
- [Spreadsheet of Oregon DEQ's costs](#)

## Drinking Water and Environmental Risks

### Preventing Groundwater Contamination at Gas Stations – What

## Municipalities and Water Suppliers Can Do New Hampshire DES, 2020

This 2020 report outlines how municipalities can and should use land use code siting restrictions to protect public health and the environment from leaks from gas stations. The report begins:

*Generations of automobile drivers have become accustomed to finding gas stations conveniently located along busy roads and highways, at intersections, and in village centers, to support our automobile-dependent lifestyles. As the environmental risks associated with gas stations – particularly the risk of gasoline leaked from underground storage tank (UST) systems – have become increasingly clear, vast improvements have been made in the design, construction and operation of UST systems. Unfortunately, federal and state regulators and UST system designers and installers have not succeeded in engineering all of the groundwater contamination risk out of these systems. A study by the U.S. Geological Survey, which randomly sampled 225 water supply wells in Rockingham County in 2003, detected the gasoline additive MtBE in 40% of public wells, and found a correlation between MtBE concentration and proximity to USTs.*

- [Read the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services report](#)
-

# AIR, LAND & WATER

Stories of environmental protection in Oregon

## Updates: Gasoline Leak in Monmouth

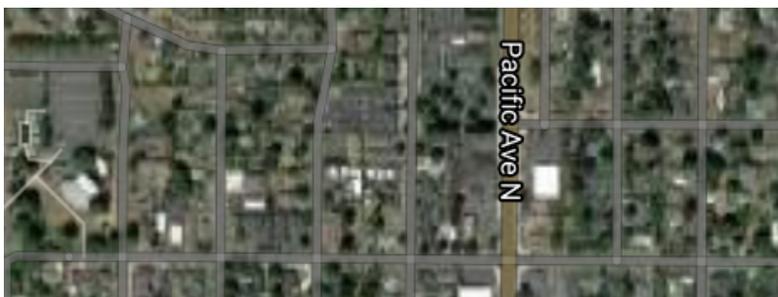
 [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#)  [April 7, 2021](#)



Cleanup of a gasoline leak at Highway 99 and Main Street in Monmouth in April 2021. [Department of Environmental Quality]

This is the most current information about DEQ's response efforts in Monmouth, where gasoline leaked into the sewer system and caused gasoline vapors to enter several buildings on Main Street.

[See current update.](#)

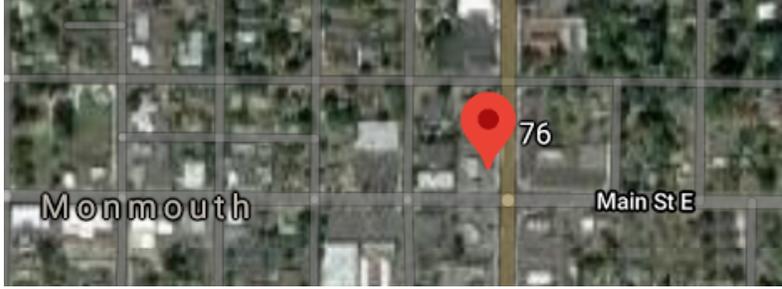


### QUICK FACTS

**Date of incident:** April 2, 2021

**Location:** Monmouth, Main Street and Highway 99

**Product:** Gasoline, estimated 14,000 gallons



**Cause:** Leaking underground gas storage tank

**Responding entities:** Oregon DEQ, City of Monmouth, Polk County Fire District No. 1, Northwest Dealerco Holdings LLC

## Status Updates

**April 23, 4 p.m.**

Road repair is complete and Main Street is fully open at Highway 99 in Monmouth. Main Street reopened earlier this week, but a portion of the sidewalk remains closed.

Air monitoring in nearby buildings indicates fuel vapor levels are dropping. Sampling at the city's wastewater treatment plant also indicate fuel levels in the sewer system are dropping. Cleanup crews have dug a trench to intercept gasoline moving underground at the gas station where the leak occurred. Crews have recovered approximately 3,500 gallons of gasoline.

Additional soil removal will be conducted at the station, along with long-term monitoring of air, soil and groundwater.

This will likely be the final update for the emergency response portion of the cleanup.



A repaved portion of Main Street in Monmouth on Monday, April 19, 2021. Cleanup crews dug into the road to remove gasoline that leaked from an underground tank system at a gas station at Main Street and Highway 99. [Department of Environmental Quality]

## **April 16, 5 p.m.**

Cleanup and road work at Main Street and Highway 99 in Monmouth will continue this weekend. Crews aim to reopen Main Street as soon as possible.

Find the latest road conditions at [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com).

## **April 14, 4:30 p.m.**

Cleanup crews at the gas station leak at Main Street and Highway 99 in Monmouth will move to a 24-hour work schedule starting Thursday in an effort to reopen Main Street as soon as possible. NWFF Environmental will be notifying nearby businesses and residents of the schedule change.

The afterhours contact number for NWFF is [800-942-4614](tel:800-942-4614).

For the latest on road conditions go to [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com).



Cleanup on April 14, 2021, of a gasoline leak at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 99 in Monmouth. [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality]





Cleanup on April 14, 2021, of a gasoline leak at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 99 in Monmouth. [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality]

## **April 13, 4:30 p.m.**

Following a review of records, DEQ estimates that up to 14,000 gallons of gasoline may have been released into soil beneath the gas station at Highway 99 and Main Street in Monmouth. The full amount of the release is still being calculated. Cleanup crews have recovered 2,700 gallons of fuel so far and progress continues.

DEQ is overseeing the cleanup with the goals of protecting public health and the environment. Cleanup crews have stopped the release of fuel into the municipal sewer system, and air monitoring field meters have shown no new reports of gas odors in nearby buildings. Monmouth's drinking water system does not appear to be affected and DEQ is collecting water samples to ensure water is safe.

A line failure at the top of a 12,000-gallon underground gasoline storage tank appears to have caused the release of fuel. The tank was periodically filled without knowledge of the release. The majority of the release occurred from late March to early April.

The cleanup includes heavy equipment and digging, which has prompted the closure of a portion of Main Street near the intersection. Crews are mitigating traffic impacts as much as possible, but

the closure will continue the remainder of this week and into next week. The detour takes travelers on Jackson Street to Catron Street or Clay Street to Catron Street. Go to [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com) for the latest road conditions.

## April 9, 4:45 p.m.

The gasoline leak cleanup is ongoing and involves digging to find where fuel has spread into groundwater.

We are currently trying to eliminate any impact to the City of Monmouth's sewer system. DEQ and the cleanup contractor, NWFF Environmental, are also monitoring air near the spill for gasoline vapors, both outside and inside nearby buildings. Air monitoring indicates that gasoline vapor is decreasing in the sewer.

Cleanup for a spill such as this involves heavy equipment and lane or road closures. We're asking people to please slow down and be aware of congestion at Highway 99 and Main Street in Monmouth. Go to [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com) for the latest road conditions.





Removing gasoline that spilled from an underground storage tank at Highway 99 and Main Street in Monmouth in April 2021.  
[Department of Environmental Quality]





Fuel mixed with groundwater at a gasoline leak at Highway 99 and Main Street in Monmouth in April 2021. [Department of Environmental Quality]

## **April 8, 5 p.m.**

The cleanup contractor hired by the owner of the 76 station in Monmouth, NWFF, has a team of eight people monitoring the air at the site and along the sewer line.

So far, crews have removed 800 gallons of gasoline from groundwater. Cleanup activities will extend into Main Street and may affect traffic through the intersection with Highway 99.

The Oregon Department of Transportation advises travelers to avoid the area or use alternative routes. Go to [TripCheck.com](https://www.tripcheck.com) for the latest road conditions.

## **April 7, 3:30 p.m.**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, City of Monmouth and Polk County Fire District No. 1 are responding to a gasoline leak that entered the sewer system and caused gasoline odors in several buildings near the corner of Main Street and Highway 99 in Monmouth.

The agencies are monitoring air quality to ensure public safety. The city is cleaning gas from the sewer system. Sewer service for residents is not affected.

The leak has stopped, and Oregon DEQ is overseeing cleanup at the 76 gas station. The current estimated release is 2,500 gallons.

If you are in a building and smell gas, evacuate and call 911.

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*Information on this site is considered to be accurate at the time of posting but is subject to change as new information becomes available.*

## Media contacts

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 [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality](#)  [April 7, 2021](#)  [Spill response](#)  
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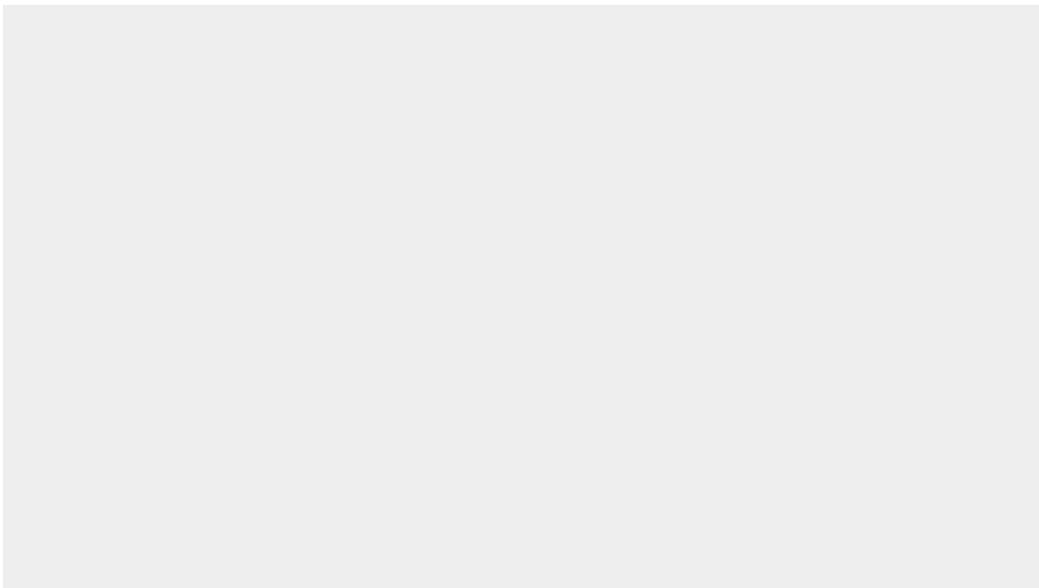
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# Pasadena Crash Leaks 1,300 Gallons Of Fuel Into Alhambra Wash

By CBSLA Staff December 20, 2021 at 9:30 am

Filed Under: 76 Station, Alhambra Wash, Gasoline Spill, Pasadena, San Marino, San Marino Fire Department, San Marino Police Department



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**PASADENA (CBSLA)** — A crash in Pasadena Sunday afternoon caused a spill that sent hundreds of gallons of fuel draining into the Alhambra Wash.



Dec. 19, 2021. (city of Alhambra/Twitter)

At around 3:15 p.m., a vehicle struck a fuel pump at the Union 76 Gas Station on Arroyo Parkway and Glenarm Street, according to the city of Pasadena.

A witness told CBSLA that a female driver behind the wheel hit the pump in such a way that it disabled the mechanism that would normally prevent gasoline from spilling as it did. The emergency shutoff malfunctioned, and authorities were instead forced to cut power to the gas station.

The city said the collision caused about 1,300 gallons of fuel to spill and then drain into the Alhambra Wash.

Hazmat crews with the city of Pasadena and Los Angeles County responded, as a portion of the intersection was closed. The spill was partly contained Sunday night. Cleanup efforts were expected to continue well into Monday afternoon, the city of Alhambra said.

During the cleanup process, residents in the surrounding area were advised to stay indoors and close windows. Anyone who reports feeling sick from the fumes should call 911.



(city of Alhambra)



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