



Fuel

Fuels contain very persistent chemicals if released into the environment. One litre of gasoline can contaminate up to one million litres of water due to its high mobility and its ability to flow with ground and surface water for great distances. Since fuels are persistent in the environment it is very difficult and costly to clean up.

Fuel handling and storage facilities are abundant in the Quinte area due to the need for fueling home heating oil systems, and powering vehicles and other machinery. There is potential for fuel to be mishandled which could lead to leaks and spills that could pose a serious threat to human health and the environment.

Fuel as a Drinking Water Threat

Handling and storage of fuel in quantities of 250 litres or more is considered a significant drinking water threat. For example, the average home heating oil tanks hold approximately 1,000 litres of oil and are considered a drinking water threat. The Quinte Source Protection Plan has policies to address these threats. Each policy pertains to different circumstances including the volume of the oil being handled and/or stored, whether the fuel is above, partially below, or below grade, and what type of vulnerable area the activity is taking place in.



Where is Fuel a Drinking Water Threat?

Fuel handling and storage activities are considered significant drinking water threats when they occur in the most vulnerable areas around a municipal drinking water source such as Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPAs) A and B and Intake Protection Zone (IPZ) 1. There are significant drinking water threats for the handling and storage of fuel in:

- WHPA A and B for wells in Deloro, Madoc, Peats Point, Point Anne, and Tweed.
- IPZ 1 in Ameliasburgh, Belleville, Deseronto, Picton, and Point Anne.
- The Hamlet of Point Anne has both WHPAs and IPZs because of the infrastructure of the system. Due to the uniqueness of this system, significant threats can occur in both WHPAs A and B as well as IPZ 1.

Common Fuel Concerns in the Quinte Area

Home heating oil tanks hold approximately 1,000 litres are the most common fuel threat in the Quinte area. There are very few fuel tanks that are more than 2,500 litres located in WHPAs and IPZs where the threat would be considered significant.

Risk Management Plans

Where existing fuel storage activities are significant drinking water threats, the person engaged in the threat activity is required to develop a Risk Management Plan to establish an acceptable means of managing any drinking water threats. These measures may include regular inspections and maintenance of storage tanks and fill/vent pipes, and placing informative stickers on fill pipes and holding tanks to inform people of their responsibilities in the event of a spill.



Restricted Land Use

Restricted land use allows municipalities to identify areas where the handling and storage of fuel is either prohibited or require a risk management plan (WHPAs A and B, and IPZ 1). This allows municipalities to create their own process to ensure that future development complies with the Quinte Source Protection Plan.



Prohibition

In the future, the installation of fuel storage tanks located within WHPAs and IPZs, where the threat is considered significant, will be prohibited. This policy applies to new and first time installations, but does not apply to replacements or upgrades to existing tanks.

