

## Huntington Beach Fire Department

### Oil Well Abandonment Permit Process

Before any oil well abandonment operations are commenced, an application to abandon or re-abandon **each** oil well must be filed with the California Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR). The DOGGR will respond with a permit that sets forth California's conditions and requirements that are to be met.

The DOGGR permit must be presented to the Huntington Beach Fire Department in order to obtain a Fire Department *Application and Permit to Abandon Oil Well form (FD061)*. The applicant may retain a well abandonment contractor to do the required abandonment work.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### 1. APPLICATIONS

- 1.1 **Notice of Intent to Abandon a Well and Top Plate Inspection** – The well operator or abandonment contractor must file an *Application and Permit to Abandon Oil Well form (FD061)* with the Fire Department for **each** oil well abandoned. Once all necessary permits and approvals have been obtained, abandonment work may commence on or subsequent to the date stated.
- 1.2 **Explosives Permit** – If any explosives are to be used at any stage of the abandonment process, the abandonment contractor shall obtain an Explosives Permit, *Fire Code Permit Application form (FD114)*, from the Fire Department prior to use of explosives (*California Code of Regulations Title 19, Chapter 10*).
- 1.3 **Grading Permit** – A grading permit must be obtained from the City of Huntington Beach Public Works Department. A grading permit fee may be required.

##### 2. PRIOR TO BACKFILLING THE EXCAVATION

###### 2.1 Welding of the Metal Top Plate

- The metal top plate should be the same thickness or thicker than the casing it is attached to and must be welded by a licensed welder.
- The plate shall have three (3), 2 inch welds and shall be free of any nipples and/or valves. Full circumference (100%) welding of the top plate is not permitted.

## Oil Well Abandonment Permit Process

- Termination of the top plate and metal casing shall be a minimum of 6 feet and a maximum of 10 feet below final grade.
- The following information shall be placed on the top plate surface with welding rod:
  - American Petroleum Institute (API) number
  - Well name
  - Date welded

2.2 **Fire Department Inspection and Gas Test** – The Fire Department must inspect and gas-test the top plate after welding. Inspections must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance by calling the Fire Department Administration Office at (714) 536-5411.

### 2.3 Grading

- All grading associated with well abandonment shall be performed in accordance with City grading and excavation codes.
- Each excavation must be back-filled and compacted in lifts no greater than 8 inches.
- Back-fill material must be clean and free of debris.
- All lifts shall be compacted to a minimum of 90 percent relative compaction.

## 3. COMPLETION

3.1 **Compaction Reports** – Copies of compaction reports must be submitted to the Fire Department and Public Works Department prior to grading plan approval.

3.2 **Report of Operations** – When the required well work is complete and all records received, the DOGGR will issue copies of the Report of Operations and the Report of Well Abandonment to the Fire Department and the applicant.

### 3.3 Development

- If development of the property is planned, the Fire Department should be contacted for additional requirements.
- Prior to the issuance of building permits, former oilfield properties shall conform to *City Specification #429, Methane District Building Permit Requirements*, and *City Specification# 431-92, Soil Clean-up Standard*.

**Oil Well Abandonment Permit Process**

3.4 **Additional Contamination**

- If, during any of the abandonment or development processes, any previously unknown oil well or soil contamination is discovered, the DOGGR and the Huntington Beach Fire Department must be notified immediately.
- If the contamination discovered constitutes a release under Proposition 65, please call 911 immediately. Prior to the issuance of building permits, former oilfield properties shall conform to *City Specification #431-92, Soil Clean-up Standard*.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick McIntosh, Fire Chief

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_