When does a simple oil leak become costly groundwater contamination?

How much harm can a simple home heating oil leak now cause? Plenty, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Home heating oil leaks caused by line breaks have been linked to groundwater contamination. New federal, state, and local regulations now impose stiff penalties for what they consider ''hazardous material spillage.'' With serious legal and financial implications for home owners and oil companies alike.

What can you do? Be aware that the problem is usually discovered only after the damage is done. By the time a spill from a broken residential oil line, leaky fitting, or failed component is realized, an extreme hazard may already exist. Home owners and oil companies can face clean-up costs in the thousands of dollars. This says nothing of governmental penalties, especially if oil has seeped into the water system.

OSV: Simple, effective prevention

Webster® OSV oil safety valves, properly installed, can substantially reduce the risk of

oil tank siphoning and ensuing leaks. U.L. listed, OSV's are both inexpensive and simple to install. They are easily mounted in the supply line near the tank and require no electrical connections.

How OSV's work.

Operation is simple. When a burner is shut down, the OSV valve is closed, stopping oil flow. When the burner starts up, vacuum from the fuel unit opens the OSV, allowing oil to flow.

If a problem leak develops between the OSV and burner, air enters the line, limiting fuel unit vacuum. The OSV will not open, preventing tank siphoning and a major spill.

A sustained vacuum at the outlet side of the OSV, generated by fuel pump operation, causes the valve to open. As an added benefit, the OSV also relieves pressure strain on fuel pump inlets and seals.

For best results

To help assure proper operation, the OSV

must not be mounted more than three feet above the burner fuel pump inlet, or more than three feet above the lowest point in the fuel line connecting the OSV to the fuel pump. Failure to do so may compromise valve performance.

Don't get soaked.

Protect yourself *and* your valued customers. Learn more about the OSV by contacting your local Webster distributor soon. Two models (for ½" and ¾" pipe) are available.

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