



## Clinton County Department of Emergency Services

**EMA \* 9-1-1 \* HazMat**

311 Frederick Street, Suite A, Flemington, PA 17745

Administrative Phone 570-893-4090 – Fax 570-893-4047

Communications Center Phone 570-748-2936 – Fax 570-893-4045

**Kevin D. Fanning Director**



### Home Heating Oil Tank Awareness

As winter approaches, the Clinton County Department of Emergency Services would like to take this opportunity to talk about home heating oil tanks. Several times a year the Clinton County Emergency Response Team responds to fuel oil spills that are the result of home heating tanks that failed and spilled fuel oil. Proper care and maintenance of your fuel tank, lines, and furnace can reduce your chances of spilling fuel oil and being faced with costly environmental cleanup costs. Fuel oil spills can:



- contaminate drinking water wells, ground water, and soil
- foul septic systems, requiring their replacement
- cause odor and health problems in the home
- contaminate storm water drains, sewers, drainage ditches, and surface water

These problems can cost thousands of dollars to correct. The following tips can help homeowners avoid costly clean-up costs associated with spills and leaks from home heating oil systems:

- Inspect your tank and lines
- Ensure the fill cap and vent cap are in place and secured
- Check the stability of your tank
- Keep the fill pipe accessible and visible for the delivery company
- Keep all pipe connections cleaned and tight
- Ensure that falling snow and ice from a roof will not damage the tank or lines
- Look for signs of spillage, stained soil or rock, or distressed vegetation that could indicate a leak

**Homeowners are liable under State law for the cleanup of spills from home heating oil tanks on their property. Sometimes homeowner insurance policies cover accidental spills from home heating oil tanks. Many policies, however, specifically exclude such pollution problems. Check with your agent to find out if you're covered.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Clinton County Department of Emergency Services at 570-893-4090 extension 3403.