

Indian Creek gets grant to remove underground storage tank

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A 600-gallon underground storage tank will be removed from the Indian Creek Volunteer Fire Fighters Inc.'s fire station, thanks to a grant from the Monroe County Commissioners.

The underground storage tank has been on the property for years, Indian Creek Fire Fighters president Dee Owens said today. She said the firefighters' association has been working with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management on the issue for months, but couldn't afford to remove the tank.

"This is wonderful," she said after the commissioners approved the \$5,300 grant from its cumulative capital development fund. "Our sincere thanks to the commissioners for coming to our rescue on this particular problem. We certainly don't have the money to pay for this."

Commissioner Mark Stoops called the removal project a "good deal," saying the tank should be removed because the area is full of karst features. And commissioners' president Patrick Stoffers echoed his comments, saying, "It's an excellent project. It's the kind of stuff I wish we got to do all the time. We should spend 90 percent of our time on stuff like this."

Ellettsville-based Kerr Environmental Services will remove the old steel gasoline tank, which the company's bid said contains only water. The company will also take soil samples in the area and test the groundwater before backfilling the site.

Owens said she believes removal of the tank should be the township's responsibility but said Trustee Linda Hollingsworth declined to do the work, citing a 2008 legal decision that gave the association the right to use the station until the current lease expires in 2013. That decision came after Hollingsworth sued the association, asking it to vacate the building when the two couldn't reach an agreement for fire services. The township has since formed another fire department.

Hollingsworth couldn't be reached today for comment.