

Water Storage Tank Best Management Practices for Wildfire Resilience

This guide details best management practices for keeping your water storage system resilient to threats from wildfire. While no water storage system is fire resistant, implementing these best management practices and recommendations can aid in creating a fire safe, resilient property. Water storage tanks specifically used for fire protection must follow [Sonoma County Fire Safety Ordinance](#).

A few best practices for tank accessibility are provided below. All water tanks should include:

Outlet and fire hose connection

Must meet the below requirements for emergency use.

Typical rural residential tanks/systems should have a minimum 2 ½ outlet with a 2 ½ inch valve and male National Hose Threads and cap.

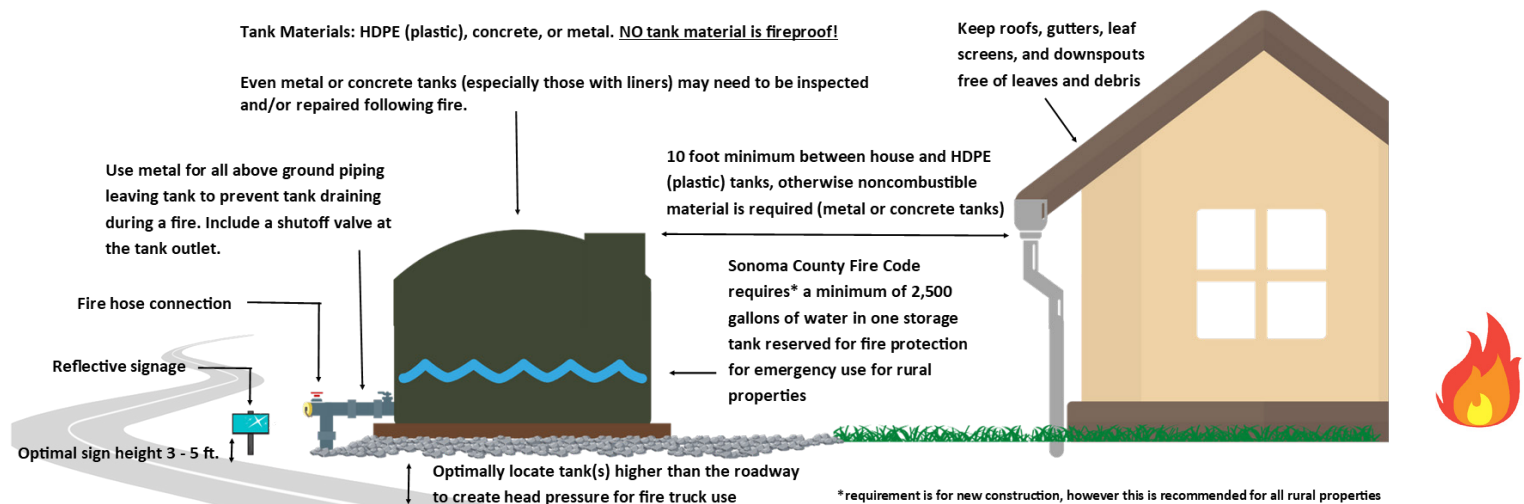
If the tank is not within 3-5 feet of a driveway (where a fire truck can park and turn around), then the water should be piped to a fire hydrant with the above mentioned outlet size next to the road.

Signage

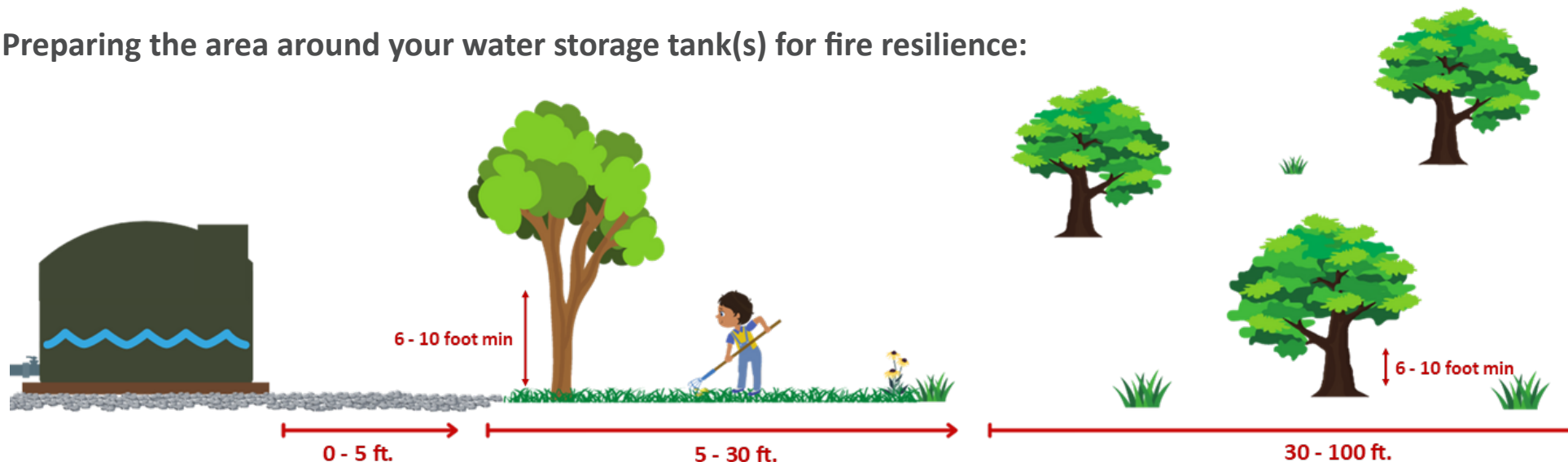
Identify hydrant or access to water at property entrance with a minimum 3-inch reflective blue marker mounted on a fire retardant post along the property driveway or at address marker. Reflective signage should be placed within 3 feet of the actual hydrant/tank(s) that is visible from the roadway, indicating hydrant/tank access.

Emergency access

Provide easy access for emergency vehicles! Ensure roads provide a stable drivable surface, are wide enough at tanks/hydrants so that fire trucks would not block out-going traffic in the event of an emergency, and that dead ends have space for trucks to turn around. Keep flammable vegetation cleared for 10 feet on each side of driveway and tank(s).



Preparing the area around your water storage tank(s) for fire resilience:



Vegetation Management based on Distance from Tank(s)

The closer to the tank, the more maintenance is needed. Each treatment area includes all recommendations from preceding distance category.

0 - 5 feet	5 - 30 feet	30 - 100 feet
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Noncombustible, ember resistant hardscape around entire tank perimeter » No tree branches over tanks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Low growing, open landscaping with no dead vegetation! » Maintain a 20-foot minimum buffer of non-flammable vegetation around and over tanks » Manage vegetation/trees to not have 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Remove vegetation under trees; remove tree litter and dead trees » Thin out small trees » Prune mature trees minimum 6-10 feet from ground, or 3x height of shrub to base of canopy*

*consult an arborist for any questions or concerns on tree pruning and tree health

Always check your local City or County's Building Code, Fire Code, Fire Safe Regulations, and vegetation management specifications. It is good practice to consult with your local fire department on specific requirements or recommendations for your local area to prepare for emergency. Additional Resources to Consider:

- » [Sonoma County Fire Code](#)
- » [Sonoma County Building Code](#)
- » [Sonoma County Fire Safe Drawings](#)
- » [Sonoma County Tank Bulletin](#)
- » [Fire Safe Sonoma](#)
- » [Sonoma County Defensible Space/Vegetation Management Services](#)
- » [Ready for Wildfire](#)
- » [Ready, Set, GO! Get Ready: Defensible Space](#)
- » [California Fire Safe Building Standards](#)
- » [California State Responsibility Area Viewer](#)
- » [Development in State Responsibility Area](#)

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