



San Diego County Fire Protection District
**RESIDENTIAL WATER TANK STANDARDS
 FOR FIRE PROTECTION**

**MINIMUM WATER STORAGE TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR DWELLINGS AND
 OTHER STRUCTURES, WHERE ADEQUATE PUBLIC/PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY
 IS NOT AVAILABLE**

Per Section 507.2.3 of the County of San Diego 2026 Consolidated Fire Code, water tanks for private residential fire protection, when authorized by the fire code official, shall comply with Table 507.2.3 and be installed in accordance with the NFPA 22 edition referenced in Chapter 80 of the California Fire Code.

TABLE 507.2.3 RESIDENTIAL WATER TANK REQUIREMENTS (with NFPA 13D Sys.)			
Building Square Feet	Gallons Per Minute Water Flow	Capacity Gallons	Duration Minutes
0 - 3600	250	7,500	30
Over 3600	250	15,000	60
When the exposure distance is one hundred feet (100') or less from an adjacent property, or where additional hazards or higher fire flow exists, the required water storage may be modified by the fire code official.			

Water Tank Location:

1. Tank bottom elevation shall be equal to or higher than the fire department connection and building pad. Regardless of domestic use, all tanks shall be equipped with a device that will ensure that the tank contains the designated amount of water for fire flow duration as determined by the fire department. Tank size may be increased to serve multiple structures on a single parcel.
2. If installing multiple tanks they must be inter-connected.
3. Supply outlet shall be at least 4 inches in diameter from the base of the tank to the point of outlet at the fire department connection. The fire department connection shall be at least one 4-inch National Standard Thread (male), reduce to one 2½ inch National Standard Thread (male). Additional outlets may be required.
4. Location of the fire department outlet to be determined on the plot plan when submitted to the fire department. Consideration will be given to topography, elevations, and distance from structures, driveway access, prevailing winds, etc. The outlet shall be located along an access roadway and shall not be closer than 50 feet nor further than 150 feet from the structure.
5. All exposed tank supply pipes shall be of an alloy or other material listed for above ground use. Adequate support shall be provided.
6. Tank materials shall be in accordance with NFPA 22 Standard; galvanized steel or fiberglass-reinforced plastic.
7. Vessels previously used for products other than water shall not be permitted.
8. The Plot Plan shall include the following information: tank size (in gallon capacity), material, location **and** elevation – and – FDC location **and** elevation.

Fire Protection Water Tank Installation Standards

Water Tanks Must Meet Setbacks Required in the County Zoning Ordinance

