

**Harris County ESD 29**  
**Champions Emergency Services District**  
**District Policy 014**  
**FIRE PROTECTION WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS**

**1. PURPOSE**

- A. To provide direction to individuals and companies that own commercial property within Harris County Emergency Services District No. 29 who seek a determination of preference involving Fire Protection Water Supply Requirements outlined in the September 1, 2019 Edition of the Harris County Fire Code.

**2. SCOPE**

- A. This District Policy applies to all new and existing commercial and residential properties that require supplemental water supply for fire protection.

**3. REFERENCE**

- A. From the Harris County Fire Code:
- 1) *An approved fire protection water supply is required for all commercial and public buildings and existing buildings that undergo substantial improvement or change of occupancy. This standard provides for reasonable and acceptable options for the establishment of water supply for firefighting purposes in areas of unincorporated Harris County not served by a reliable public water supply system. Tanks supplying water for a sprinkler system or other private fire protection shall comply with NFPA 22 and are generally considered to be outside the scope of this standard.*
  - 2) *The following options may be considered, in order of preference, where it is determined by Harris County that an on-site fire protection water supply is required and a reliable public water supply is not available for firefighting purposes:*
    - a. *An approved water tank with a draft connection.*
    - b. *An approved natural water source.*

3) *Before a natural water source will be considered for approval by Harris County, the building owner must obtain a written letter from the fire chief of the local fire department stating acceptance of such a water source for firefighting operations. An affidavit will be provided by Harris County to the property owner for signature by the fire chief of the responsible fire department. The letter and affidavit shall be submitted to Harris County Engineering as part of the building fire code submittal package.*

#### **4. RESOLUTION**

A. Although the Harris County Fire Code states that “*before a natural water source will be considered for approval by Harris County the building owner must obtain a written letter from the fire chief of the local fire department stating acceptance of such a water source for firefighting operations...*”, HCESD 29 Board of Commissioners by a Resolution dated March 4, 2021 will not consider or approve such a variance for a firefighting water source.

#### **5. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. A Six Inch (6”) National Thread Female Fire Department Connection is required on all above ground water tanks.
- B. The Connection shall be mounted so that Fire Apparatus can access the connection directly and no more than 40 feet from the Apparatus Connection point.