

**Maintenance Tips**  
**The Preventive Maintenance Tip of the Quarter ~ Water Storage Tanks for Fire Protection**

**Water Storage Tanks for Fire Protection**

NFPA 25/22 prescribes inspection, testing, and maintenance to ensure that water storage tanks will provide the proper quantity of water in the event of a fire.

**Requisite procedures include the following:**

- Tanks not equipped with supervised water level alarms should be inspected monthly
- Tanks equipped with supervised water alarms shall be inspected quarterly
- Temperature of water in tanks should not be less than 40 degrees F
- The temperature of water in tanks with low temperature alarms should be inspected and recorded monthly during heating season
- The temperature of water in tanks without low temperature alarms should be inspected and recorded weekly during heating season
- Low water temperature alarms, where applicable, should be tested monthly (cold weather only)
- High water temperature limit switches on tank heating systems, where applicable, should be tested monthly whenever in service
- Exterior of the tank, supporting structure, vents, foundation, and catwalks or ladders, should be inspected quarterly for signs of damage
- High- and low-level alarms should be tested semi-annually
- Level indicators shall be tested every 5 years for accuracy and freedom of movement
- Pressure gauges should be tested with a calibrated gauge in accordance with manufacturer's instructions or replaced every 5 years. Gauges not within 3 percent of the scale should be recalibrated or replaced
- Interior of steel tanks without corrosion protection should be inspected every 3 years
- The interior of all other types of tanks should be inspected every 5 years

**Supplied by Frank Hawkins,  
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