

# BLUE DOT PROGRAM

## HELP FIREFIGHTERS FIND AND UTILIZE WATER SOURCES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!

Do you have a swimming pool or pond that can be accessed by a fire engine with a short hose? A water storage tank? A fire hydrant or standpipe?

Sign up to get your water source assessed by the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council or Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department to see if your water supply can be used by fire personnel in an emergency.

### Details:

-Once approved, a reflective blue dot will be placed on a green address sign at the entrance to the property, as well as one at the water source. Blue dots placed in other locations may waste time and resources during an emergency.

-GPS coordinates will be taken at the property entrance as well as the location of the water source itself. These will be used in making maps only available to fire personnel, and for no purpose other than fighting fire in and around the community.



For more information, contact:

[coordinator@wcfiresafe.org](mailto:coordinator@wcfiresafe.org)



# Firefighting Water Supplies

Water is one of the limiting factors in fighting fires. Having a water tank, swimming pool or pond nearby is not enough – the water must be accessible to firefighters. Consider this:

1. There are 2 basic types of water sources: draft and pressurized.
2. In most draft systems, the fire engine has to suck water into its pump, where it's pressurized for firefighting. Draft water sources can be a swimming pool, pond or water tank. Because a fire engine's suction hose is very short, the fire engine must be able to park within 7 feet of the source. Both the parking location AND the approach to it must be a hard surface capable of holding a 14' tall, 40,000-pound vehicle.
3. The better choice is a pressurized system, using gravity or a pump. Gravity systems are the most desirable for fire protection, since they can work when the power goes out.  
In a gravity system, water is stored in an elevated tank or tanks before it is needed. The tank is kept full and water is brought down to a hydrant through a large diameter pipe (3" or more). An elevated tank provides 1 pound of pressure for every 2.3' in elevation. A tank 80' uphill provides 35 pounds of pressure – the minimum needed to protect a home from fire.
4. Portable water pumps can be used with tanks, pools, ponds or streams. Pumps should be pre-fitted with 1 1/2" or 2 1/2" male National Hose pipe thread fittings on their discharge sides and must have suction hoses long enough to reach the water.
5. Hydrants should be located about 50' away from your house. At this distance, if the house is on fire, the hydrant can probably still be reached. Hydrants must be very sturdy. Fortify PVC pipe so that it can withstand heavy weights and pressures. Hydrants should be 18-24" high and placed 4-12' from any road. Protect your hydrant from vehicles with barriers, but make sure that firefighters can park near it.
6. Install round blue reflectors to guide firefighters to your firefighting water supply. Do not use blue reflectors for any other purpose – this could lead to confusion and endanger firefighters.

Abridged from "Water, water everywhere", Forestland Steward, Summer 2008.  
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