Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

Community Risk Reduction Division **www.metrofire.ca.gov**

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SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT				
FIRE PREVENTION STANDARD				
STANDARD TITLE:	**Water Supply During Construction**			
STANDARD NUMBER:	34	EFFECTIVE DATE: 09/01/25	REVISION DATE:	

SCOPE

This standard is a guide for use when a permanent and reliable water supply is not available when combustible building materials arrive on the site, upon commencement of vertical construction, or upon installation of a standpipe system in buildings under construction.

DEFINITIONS

Permanent Water Supply: A permanent water supply shall connect to the public water system, providing the required fire flow water and pressure. The water supply will be deemed permanent and reliable when a local water purveyor has inspected, tested, maintained, and controlled the water supply.

GUIDELINES

A permanent approved water supply for fire protection shall be made available as soon as combustible building materials arrive on the site, upon commencement of vertical construction, and upon installation of a standpipe system in buildings under construction

Requests outside the above-noted requirement shall be deemed an Alternate Means and Methods Request. Additional fees apply to Alternate Means and Methods requests.

Alternative Means and Methods Requests:

1. Cross-Connection (Jumper): A cross-connection links a potable and non-potable water supply. A fire hydrant can present a cross-connection risk before establishing a permanent and reliable water supply. If an applicant requests a cross-connection as an alternative means and methods, the applicant must:

- Provide a timeline for the cross-connection and conversion to a reliable water supply.
- The back-flow device used for cross-connection shall be a minimum of 8 inches and secured with a Knox Padlock (supplied by the developer).
- Provide documentation of a hydrostatic pressure test of the underground water supply piping.

- Documentation of the flush of all on-site hydrants.
- Metro Fire will conduct a fire flow test to verify the minimum fire flow (requires a fee).
- During chlorination:
    - The chlorination time line shall be provided
    - All fire hydrants shall be bagged and signage provided to ensure the system is not used by responding fire crews.
    - On-site water storage tanks shall be provided as outlined in #2 below.
    - Documentation shall be provided upon completion of chlorination and acceptance by the local water purveyor.

2. Temporary Water Supply: Stationary water storage tanks or mobile water tenders may be used when an adequate water supply is not available during construction. If an applicant requests a temporary water supply as an alternative means and methods, the applicant must:

- Ensure the tank can supply the minimum fire flow requirements:
    - Homes with square footage 0 – 3,600 sq. ft: minimum fire flow = 500 gpm for 30 minutes (15,000 gallons)
    - Homes with square footage 3,601 and greater: minimum fire flow shall be half the value in California Fire Code Table B105.1(2) for a duration of 1 hour.
- Ensure a minimum of one 2.5” National Hose (NH) connection.
- Ensure that fire apparatus has unobstructed access to the water supply and connection, as approved by Metro Fire.
- All aspects of the temporary water supply, including location, capacity, and access, must be approved by before construction.
- Ensure the water is suitable for firefighting and free from contaminants and foreign materials.
- Ensure the temporary water supply is reliable by regularly inspecting, testing, and maintaining the system.

3. Regardless whether a cross-connection or temporary water supply is granted as an alternative means, construction or storage of combustible material will be limited to:

- Within five hundred (500') feet of the water supply
- The water supply and construction activity must be in the same area. Access across a public road will not be allowed.

Option (not requiring an Alternative Means)

Foundation only release:

1. Submit a request through Fire Prevention Mobile to include:
    a. Written request for foundation only releases with the address, parcel number and lot number requested.
    b. Subdivision Map highlighting the location requested
    c. Administrative fee paid – each address/parcel/lot are submitted individually

2. Metro Fire will review the request.
    a. If approved, a release will be provided to the applicant
    b. If not approved, a notice will be provided outlining any the justification. (i.e., Civil, architectural, fire protection plans have not been submitted for review and approval).