

Rural Fire Service NSW ('RFS')

Fire Fighting, Water Storage Requirements

Summary / Extracts

Date last updated; Dec 2021

Tank / Water Storage Requirements

For residential blocks with no reticulated water or where reticulated water supply cannot be guaranteed, 'RFS' water storage requirements are (table 5.3d):

- a) Land lot sizes up to 1,000 metres sq, 'RFS' water of 5,000 litres capacity.
- b) Land lot sizes 1,000 to 10,000 metres sq, 'RFS' water of 10,000 litres capacity.
- c) Land lot sizes greater than 10,000 metres sq, 'RFS' water of 20,000 litres capacity.
- d) Multi-dwelling (units / duplexes etc) 'RFS' water of 5,000 litres capacity per dwelling up to a maximum of 20,000 litres

Schools, hospitals, nursing homes and tourist accommodation in bush fire prone areas (table 6.8c):

- a) "Adequate water supply for firefighting" (but little or no elaboration as to the meaning of adequacy);
or
- b) 'RFS' water of 10,000 litres capacity, where reticulated water is not available.

Caravan, camping grounds including primitive camping (table 6.8c):

- a) "Adequate water supply for firefighting is installed and maintained" through a reticulated system; or
- b) 'RFS' water of "10,000 litres minimum water supply .. on site" (a tank or more than one tank) for firefighting purposes.

Tank construction and outlet pipe guidance for dedicated 'RSF' tanks

- a) All above ground pipes are made from metal;
- b) The pipe diameter to the 'RFS' outlet is not less than 65mm diameter and provides "adequate flow" (note, no definition of "adequate flow" is provided);
- c) That the 'RFS' outlet is located in the IPA (inner protection area) and has a 65mm "Storz" outlet with a ball valve;
- d) If the tank is located underground, it has an access hole of not less than 200mm diameter and the tanks location is "marked" (with firefighting approved format signage);
- e) There is hardened ground surface (road or driveway as opposed to dirt track) up to within 4 metres of the 'RFS' outlet to allow good truck access; and
- f) All above ground tanks are manufactured from concrete or metal and if the tank is on a stand, the stand is constructed from "non-combustible" material or fire resistant timber per AS 3959.

References

1. https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/174272/Planning-for-Bush-Fire-Protection-2019.pdf
2. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) and the Rural Fires Act 1997 (RF Act)
3. Planning for Bush Fire Protection (PBP) 2019 Regulations Tables 5.3d and 6.8c and NCC
4. AS3959-2018

Disclaimer

Landscape Tanks™ is a manufacture of a modular, hybrid, interconnecting retaining wall and water storage, quick install, concrete tank system. We are not town planners, fire fighters, part of the 'RSF' or local council. All goods are sold ex-works, we don't attend sites or advise on site appropriateness (or circumstances) or installation arrangements. All advice and commentary provided in this document needs to be read in this context.