



# Orange County Fire Authority Fire Prevention Division INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 12-99

## **Subject: Remote Single Family Residence Water Supply**

**Applicability:** This Bulletin may be utilized only when a project is located in a rural portion of the County (e.g. Silverado, Trabuco, Modjeska Canyons) where municipal water systems are not extended to within 1,000 feet of a proposed residence. Application of the Bulletin is at the discretion of the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA). The OCFA Operations Department has reviewed the water supply information provided in this document. This Bulletin does not apply to commercial or residential tract developments.

**Criteria For Review:** Applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The following items must be addressed:

- 1) Has the applicant provided adequate justification in the form of a request for Alternative Materials and Methods (AM&M)?
- 2) Has an adequate emergency access roadway been provided?
- 3) Does the water supply provide fire flow for a minimum of 15 minutes, plus fire sprinkler system demand for 10 minutes?
- 4) Will a complying landscape fuel modification plan be incorporated into the project design?
- 5) Is the lot located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) Very High, or Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ)? Special building construction design features from the 2019 California Building Code Chapter 7A/Residential Code R327 are required. (The map can be viewed at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.org), click on Fire Prevention Department)
- 6) Has the property owner provided a letter stating that they are aware of the delay in response time due to the location of their property and terrain? Will this document be recorded against the deed?

The following example is offered to demonstrate an acceptable compliance strategy:

**Example:** An applicant is proposing construction of a 2,000 square foot residence that will be in excess of 1,000 feet from the nearest public fire hydrant. The location is a typical canyon setting with: narrow roads, steep grades, wildland interface, etc. The applicant proposes the installation of a 15,250-gallon water tank dedicated to fire protection that will serve both the fire sprinklers and a private fire hydrant near the home. The applicant also proposes a fire pump to supply the required water pressures. The minimum California Fire Code fire flow requirement of 1,000 gpm is available.

**Applicant's Justification for Acceptance:** The proposed system will provide a minimum of 15 minutes of fire fighting capacity with a fire flow of 1,000 gpm. This should be sufficient time to allow personnel to connect to the nearest public fire hydrant, within approximately 1,000 feet, and reach the residence. The residential fire sprinkler system will further reduce the potential need for manual fire fighting operations.

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