

Northern Lakes Fire Protection District

Proudly serving the areas of Hayden Lake and Rathdrum



Hayden Area (208) 772-5711 • Fax: (208) 772-3044
Rathdrum Area (208) 687-1815 • (208) 687-2088

Water & Defensible Space Recommendations **Rural Building Permits & Subdivisions**

Appendix B of the 2006 International Fire Code requires 1,000 gallons per minute for a single family dwelling that does not exceed 3,600 feet. For rural development this flow requirement is not always practical. We feel the following is a reasonable attempt to meet the intent of the code.

1. Any newly constructed single-family dwelling must provide 1,000 gallons per minute minimum flow for duration of 30 minutes (30,000 gallons total) and a fire hydrant within 600 feet of the structure. An alternative is any of the following methods. Pressure tanks, elevated gravity tanks, reservoirs, cisterns, swimming pools, mobile water supplies or an automatic residential sprinkler system. All of the above systems shall meet the requirements of the latest edition of the Uniform Fire Code or the guidelines of the National Fire Protection Association Code and standards, along with the local respective fire official requirements.

System Design: for elevated gravity tanks, reservoirs, cisterns, swimming pools and mobile water supplies can be determined by using National Fire Protection association Standard 1231 as a guide.

Mobile water supplies shall be limited to residential structures of 3,600 square feet or less in size due to the immediate limitation of water supply available.

System Design: for an automatic residential sprinkler system shall be determined by National Fire Protection Association Standard 13 and 13D.

In some projects it would be possible to have an area separation so the building could exceed the 3,600 square feet size. This would have to be determined by the Uniform Building Code latest edition.

2. DEFENSIBLE SPACE: The sprinkler system will protect the home from fire originating inside. Implementing the attached "Defensible Space" requirements will help protect the structure from fires originating outside. The defensible space criteria must be implemented at the time of construction and is the owner's responsibility to maintain.
3. SUBDIVISION: Water flow and defensible space requirements for subdivisions will be the same as above until the density is less than 1-acre lots. For subdivisions with less than 1-acre lots, a water system capable of delivering a minimum of 1,000 gallons per minute for homes less than 3,600 square feet and fire hydrants spaced 600 feet-apart must be installed before any construction.
4. ROAD ACCESS: The existing access requirements for a road and driveways remain in effect (see attached). However, with the sprinkler systems in mind, the fire official may be flexible in unusual circumstances.