

Did you know?????

One of the neighborhood residents called me after a casual conversation about the buried fire suppression tanks we have in the community park. He was trying to negotiate a lower home owners insurance policy and wanted more details. Maybe this letter will enlighten you, or offer you the same opportunity to lower your home owners policy.

Most insurance carriers will offer a lower rate on your home owners policy if your house is located near a fire hydrant, or if your neighborhood can provide ready access to 10,000 gallons of water. I just talked to Mike Kelly, the developer of our subdivision and he gave me the following information....

There are three underground fire suppression tanks that are interconnected. They are located in the park, just West of the Finetti residence at 6991 Alta drive. Each tank measures 6' x 8' x 12' (outside dimension). They are concrete construction, similar to each of our septic tanks. Each tank holds about 3700 gallons of water. The three combined tanks have about 11,000 gallons of water.



Each tank is filled to the brim with water. I confirmed this 12/20/03. He said he thinks the fire department initially filled them.

I called the Hamburg township fire department and spoke to Fire Chief John Clark to ask if we should do anything to maintain them, such as...

Do they need to be drained occasionally, inspected and refilled? (He replied they do not. He came out on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003 and confirmed we have the proper fitting to mate with the fire department hoses.)



Should we treat the water with anything to prevent mold, freezing or anything else? (Can you imagine if they need to put out a fire and the water is all skanky and moldy and they spray that on your house? He replied the water is probably not suitable for drinking, but it rarely needs any attention. Some concrete storage tanks develop cracks over time, that allow the water to drain out and you just need to monitor this.)

He suggested we keep the three tank lids cleared of snow in the Winter, so that if a crack develops in the standoff pipe, they can lift one of the lids, drop a hose and pump the water directly from the tanks. They will include our subdivision in their rotation for training purposes, and may even visit next month to conduct a drill where they actually connect to the standoff and spray a few hundred gallons of water to make sure everything works as it should. I will periodically check the tank lids and water levels this Winter to insure we are prepared.

In the event of a fire, the Hamburg Township Fire Department will always deploy a truck that carries a minimum of 1,000 gallons of water. They have a mutual aid agreement with surrounding fire departments that could bring additional pumper trucks if needed. The fact we have 11,000 gallons of additional water right here in our neighborhood is a safety feature we can take comfort in.

Ed Hawkinson