



Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lake Henry Fire Department Installs Fill Station

The Lake Henry Fire and Rescue Department (LHFRD) installed a second rural water source (fill station) this summer. The fill station taps into an existing irrigation system. Last summer, LHFRD installed a dry hydrant at another location. A dry hydrant is a pipe system that is permanently installed in an existing lake, pond or stream that can provide a suction supply of water to a fire department tanker truck. In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of a fire department's operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill up and return to the fire. In many cases, these fill-up points are often long distances from the fire and the firefighters are unable to maintain an uninterrupted water source at the scene. The new fill station allows a 2000 gallon tanker to be filled in a little over two minutes.

This fill station is unique because it uses an existing irrigation well. The fill station was installed in Spring Hill Township, on 320th Avenue, on the Melvin and Linda Feldewerd farm.

The Mid-Minnesota Mississippi River Resource and Conservation Development Council (RC&D) received a Department of Natural Resources Community Firewise Program grant to offset the costs of installing the fill station. Additional support was provided by the following people and organizations: Lake Henry Fire and Rescue, Melvin Feldewerd family, Rotochopper, Ron Olmsheid Trucking, Pelzer Auto, Stearns Electric Association; Lake Henry Implement, J & J Builders, Welle Custom Cabinets, Spring Hill Township, Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (Stearns County SWCD); and Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D.

Kurt Frieler, LHFRD fire chief said, "The project was a success because of the dedicated volunteers, landowners and organizations providing extraordinary support."

If your local fire department is interested in installing a dry hydrant or fill station, please call Dennis Fuchs, Stearns County SWCD administrator, at 320-251-7800 extension 132.

All SWCD programs are available without regard to race, color, nation origin, religion, gender, age marital status, or handicap.



Photo 1. LHFRD filling their pumper truck at the fill station (left to right: Kenny Ley and Kurt Frieler).



Photo 2. LHFD pumper-truck, fill station, and volunteers . Left to right: Pat Welle, Bob Schmitt, Randy Nelson, Dennis Fuchs, Kenny Ley, Paul Orbeck (Spring Hill Township), Bob Pelzer (Assistant Chief), Melvin Feldewerd and Corey Feldewerd (landowners), Kurt Frieler (Chief), Joey Pelzer, Jamie Brick, Curt Feldewerd (landowner), Gerald Lieser, and Ronnie Bertram (Spring Hill Township).