

# AQUASTORE TANKS WITHSTAND TEST OF FIRE

2018 was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire season in California history. More than 8,500 fires burned nearly 1.9 million acres up and down the state, causing more than \$3.5 billion in damages and killing 105 people.

In Whiskeytown National Recreational Area, Aquastore tanks stood strong in the most severe conditions.

Turn over to read the case study 

## GLASS-FUSED-TO-STEEL TECHNOLOGY IS THE PREMIUM IN WATER STORAGE TANKS

All Aquastore® liquid storage tanks are:

- Made of USA steel and manufactured exclusively in the USA in an ISO 9001 certified facility
- Supported by the world's most experienced Local Authorized Dealer Network

Why choose a glass lined tank over other designs?

- Never needs painting
- Vitrium™ coating technology enhanced with TiO2 delivers superior chemical resistance and outstanding physical properties of titanium dioxide rich glass for longer life and durability
- Edgecoat II™ is the only process in the world that ensures optimum glass encapsulation on all four sides of the sheet; maximizes corrosion protection by eliminating exposed, uncoated steel
- Fastest construction time – easy assembly without cranes or special equipment
- Can be expanded to meet future requirements
- Custom designs, options and accessories to meet customer needs
- Lowest maintenance and life cycle costs

## ENGINEERED FOR PERFORMANCE

Aquastore® tank designs incorporate recognized standards assuring high-quality and long-lasting municipal and industrial service water storage tanks. Materials are carefully selected and inspected for compliance with rigid specifications. These design and material standards are proven in thousands of tanks all over the world.

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californiaaquastore.com  
info@californiaaquastore.com



# The Carr Fire was the second largest of the season, burning nearly 230,000 acres of Shasta County in July and August. It started when a trailer tire blew out and the rim made contact with some pavement inside Whiskeytown National Recreational Area.

Hot, dry temperatures and gusty winds propelled the flames, creating a series of fire tornadoes that defied the most determined firefighting efforts. In one area, the flames jumped a firebreak the width of seven bulldozer blades.

Over the next five weeks, crews would battle the firestorm inside the recreational area and on surrounding land. When the last of the flames were extinguished, 39,000 of the park's 42,000 acres had been destroyed.

The impact of the Carr Fire was widespread. All park facilities lost power, phones and internet service. Five residences on the park were completely lost, as were other buildings, bridges and exhibits. The park partially reopened in early September 2018 and is still only about one-third operational.

All of this makes the following five words remarkable: "They look just like new."

That's David Larabee, chief of facility management at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, describing the condition of five Aquastore® liquid storage tanks that were in the path of the fire.

Larabee is responsible for all park facilities including water and wastewater systems, roads, trails, buildings, grounds and marinas. Virtually everything he and his staff inspected once the smoke cleared was gone, so when he laid eyes on the first Aquastore tank he couldn't believe his eyes.

***"The fire burned within 20 feet of each tank, but everything looked to be in pristine condition," says Larabee. "Every tank we encountered, there was no evidence of bubbling or melting and the exterior finish was still shiny."***

Aquastore's glass-fused-to-steel panels stand up to the most severe conditions. Countless owners have attested to their durability in the face of scorching sunlight and extreme humidity, but never

something of this magnitude. A wildfire can burn anywhere from 1470° to 2200° F, which would stress almost any type of material.

Manufactured by CST, the world's leader in liquid and dry bulk storage solutions, Aquastore® tanks with Vitrium™ glass-fused-to-steel (enamel) coating offer the lowest total life cycle costs. The glass coating on the tank panels never needs recoating during the entire life of the tank, which results in significant savings for tank owners.

"The tanks were in immaculate condition," says Chester Stygar, superintendent/project manager of California Aquastore, which supplied the tanks to the park. "We know the exterior of this tank doesn't bubble or chip like an epoxy tank, but withstanding these conditions is next-level stuff."

Larabee says to illustrate the invincibility of the Aquastore tank, the Carr Fire destroyed a total of 47 buildings, including one of his wastewater filtration units.

"We even had about 50 boats in the middle of Whiskeytown Lake burn and sink," he added. "The fire spared nothing. Well, almost nothing."

Stygar also performed an inspection of the tanks after the fires, and said he's never seen anything like it.

"The glass-fused-to-steel floor, the knuckle roof, even the handrail on top, everything looked great," he says. "It's impressive that the tanks are in perfect condition when you see the charred skeletons of the nearby oak trees and Manzanita. Even a few components around the tanks were melted."

Stygar adds that none of the tanks required any maintenance, and the water inside them tested positive.

Larabee said his older steel tanks did not withstand the fires as well as the

Aquastores and he wants to replace them with Aquastores. He knows his water storage is secure with Aquastore, which is one less thing to worry about as he and his staff and contractors tirelessly continue the seemingly unending job of repairing, rebuilding and restoring the park for all to enjoy.

***His last words before he moves on to his next appointment: "Thanks for building an exceptional product."***



***Aquastore tanks looked and performed like new after the Carr Fire came within feet of them.***

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