

# Reno firefighters saving nearly 1M gallons of water during training

- [Video](#)

•

## [Fire fighters and drought](#)

Reported by: Van Tieu

Email: [vtieu@mynews4.com](mailto:vtieu@mynews4.com)



[Print Story](#)

Published: 5/22 6:03 pm

Share

Updated: 5/22 6:31 pm

RENO, Nev. (KRNV & MyNews4.com) - This week, the Reno Fire Department is doing a promotion test for 24 firefighters. Due to budget cuts, it hasn't done so in seven years. It's a competitive and demanding test, both physically and mentally. It calls for math skills.

It's a hands-on test that calls for a lot of water, which is a big concern in the region's 4th year of drought.

"It could take up about a million gallons to put everyone through the paces and the testing process," says Division Chief, Tim Spencer.

The regional public safety training complex, where the testing takes place, doesn't have a water reclamation system. Normally, during promotion tests and training, the water is sprayed into the hills.

An operator told Spencer last week he was concerned about what a waste it would be.

"I told him, 'You're absolutely right. We should try to figure out a way to not just dump water down in the storm drain system and into the Truckee River,'" Spencer says.

So the solution came by means of interagency collaboration.

"Our good friends at the Air National Guard Fire Department provided us with water tender so we could recirculate the water," Spencer says.

The water in the hoses are connected to the tender, also known as a tanker, while simulating fire exercises.

With the borrowed water tender, the fire department will be using only thousands of gallons of water for the entire week, instead of a million gallons, while allowing the firefighters the opportunity to become a fire operator.

“The water is still moving,” Spencer says. “They still have to do their mathematical calculations, but instead of losing the water down the drain, it’s just being recycled.”