

Bridgton Fire Department – Tanker 4

3,500 gallon Vacuum Tanker

Bridgton, Maine

Facts and Figures...

- Tanker 4 is a 2011, E-One Water Master vacuum tanker operated by the Bridgton Fire Department located in Bridgton, Maine.
- The rig is built on an International chassis and is powered by a 430 hp International diesel motor.
- Tanker 4 is not equipped with a fire pump; instead, a 360 cfm vacuum pump is used to load and offload the tanker's water.
- The tanker is equipped with 6-inch side and rear dumps, carries 34 feet of suction hose, and has a 3,500-gallon dump tank.
- The Bridgton Fire Department, along with several other FDs, protect numerous small town and rural areas in the Lakes Region of Maine.



Tanker 4 is a large capacity vacuum tanker that is very efficient in water hauling operations. The rig was recently purchased by the Bridgton FD to improve water supply operations in their non-hydranted response areas.



The key point about vacuum tanker operations is that no pumper is needed to load the tanker. The vacuum tanker self-loads at over 1,000 gpm!



Tanker 4 carries 34-feet of 6-inch suction hose and two types of suction strainers for use in different loading scenarios.



The tanker also carries a 3,500-gallon dump tank for use at either the dump site or tanker fill site depending upon how the operation is set up.



Tanker 4 is shown here offloading its 3,500 gallons at a water supply drill in nearby Casco, Maine. With the vacuum pump reversed, the tanker "blows off" its load of water at well-over 1,000 gpm.



The tanker can offload and load from any of the three, 6-inch ports – the rear port or the two side ports.



No pumper needed!!! This is what the fill site looks like for a vacuum tanker. Once the suction hose and strainer are placed – the vacuum tanker driver simply dismounts, connects the hose, and loads. Very simple!



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