Excerpt 3 from Diesel Standby Generator Maintenance

After determining that the tank would be replaced, I sat down with the Clinic maintenance supervisor and discussed the options. The clear choice was to build the tank above ground in a double wall setup with a containment berm also hiding the tank.

The installation proceeded quickly and was put into service within a month. A six-foot-high concrete block wall enclosed the fuel tank. The wall was spray-coated and painted the same color as the generator set building. It looked good and worked.

My crews always looked for unused or surplus diesel engines and generator sets. One crew located a diesel-driven fire pump that had been out of service for five years.

It was in the southern area, a decommissioned, company-owned labor camp. I asked for and received permission to take possession of the fire pump and move it to our shop for repairs and testing.

I had acquired several spare generator sets but no spare fire pump. I instructed our crew to get ready to go down and get the fire pump.

We had wheeled, triangular ends, I-beam cross member, and hoist assembly at the shop that was certified by our crane-testing department for a maximum load weight of 2000 pounds. The hoist was disassembled at the shop and loaded onto our trailer for transport to the fire pump location. The crew used our shop ladders for disassembly.

At the work site, the crew realized they had not brought a ladder to reassemble the hoist. They had forgotten to load a ladder along with the hoist.