

STATE OF _____
VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA)
PROGRAM NARRATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 2004

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program is authorized in Section 10(b)3 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (PL 95-313, as amended by the Forest Stewardship Act of 1990 (PL 101-624).

I. Description: The purpose of the Volunteer Fire Assistance is to provide financial, technical and related assistance to State Foresters for organizing, training and equipping rural fire departments. State Foresters pass this funding through to local fire departments and fire training academies. This program authorizes expenditure of federal funding to prevent and suppress rural fires and enhancing protection capabilities by assisting rural communities with training, equipping and organizing fire service. Fire departments in communities with populations of 10,000 or less are eligible for this grant. Distribution of available VFA funds should be given out with an emphasis on the most needy. Funding provided through Volunteer Fire Assistance should be focused to address wildland urban interface issues and needs for communities at risk in the wildland urban interface. Issues and needs include firefighter safety and training, enhancing community water supply and delivery capabilities, communications, and equipping.

II. Federal Role: Volunteer Fire Assistance funding contributes to healthy sustainable, forests and sustainable economic development. High priority is placed on assisting rural communities having an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 9 or 10, as these communities usually have the poorest fire protection and in communities at risk within the wildland urban interface. Funds are not authorized for purchase, construction, or renovation of capital improvements such as fire stations or pressurized water systems. VFA Narrative statement requirements are outlined in the April 1995 amendment to the Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Other Agreements Handbook, FSH 1509.1 and the VFA Desk Guide found: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/planning/help/index.htm>

III. Methodology/Timetable: Projects to consider are those that reduce the numbers of rural fires, improve firefighter safety and training, enhance community water supplies, and improve communities' abilities to deliver extinguishing agents on fires. Examples of high priority funding proposals submitted by fire departments which will be approved include: purchase of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA); purchase of structural and wildland fire resistant protective clothing; funding for State Fire Academies to train rural fire departments in fire suppression, hazmat, rescue, incident command and management techniques; installation of dry fire hydrants to improve water supplies for fire suppression in rural areas; purchase of communications equipment; conversion of Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) vehicles to water tenders and engines; implementation of class "A" foam technology to improve the fire suppression effectiveness of water; and to conduct intensive fire prevention programs aimed at reducing the numbers of rural fire ignitions.

- Timetable should include work plan, outcomes/targets to be achieved

IV. MODIFICATIONS: None

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS/TARGETS: SUMMARY OF PLANNED / TARGETED ACTIVITIES to be accomplished with this grant:

	Volunteer Fire Assistance			
Category	Planned Activity	Planned/Targeted Activities		
		Number	Cost (\$)	Number of Communities Assisted
Applications	Total # of Applications Approved (Estimated) / Total \$ (Report Federal Funds only) Awarded			
Equipment	Total \$ (Report Federal Funds only) used to purchase/maintain/rehab all types of equipment.			
Organization	Total # of new Fire departments established (Volunteer, Rural or District) / Total \$ (Report Federal Funds only) Awarded			
Training	Total # of Firefighters trained / Total \$ (Report Federal Funds only) Awarded			
Administration	Total \$ (Report Federal Funds only) used to administer program.			
Communities Assisted	Total # of Communities assisted under VFA			
	<i>Program totals</i>		\$	

- Quarterly reporting/update of grant accomplishments/activities must be reported via the National Fire Plan Operations Reporting System (NFPORS) Database.

VI. BUDGET INFORMATION: (SF-424A: Identification of Costs)

- Detailed budget to support narrative statements, reflect costs needed, and determine if costs are reasonable and allowable
- Source of non-Federal resources

Submitted by:

State Fire Supervisor

Date:

Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA): Definitions to be used to complete the Planned / Targeted Activities template under # V. Accomplishments / Targets:

Applications:

- **Total # applications approved / Total \$ (Report federal funds only) Awarded:** Enter the total (estimated) number of applications approved to receive federal funds. Enter the total dollar \$ amount (report federal funds only) awarded.

Equipment:

- **Total \$ (Report federal funds only) awarded to purchase/maintain/rehab all types of equipment:** Enter the total dollar \$ amount (report federal funds only) awarded to purchase/maintain/rehab all other types of equipment: (Examples: PPE, generators, slip-ons, pumps, radios, pagers, dry hydrants, leaf blowers, rehab FEPP or other apparatus, maintain communications systems, etc.)

Organization:

- **Total # of new Fire Departments established / Total \$ (report federal funds only) Awarded:** Enter the # of new Fire Departments established this reporting period with federal funds through the VFA program. Enter the total dollar \$ amount (report federal funds only) awarded to help form the new Fire Department(s).

Training:

- **Total # of firefighters trained / Total \$ (report federal funds only) Awarded:** Enter the total number of firefighters that received training this reporting period with federal funds through the VFA program. Enter the total dollar \$ amount (report federal funds only) awarded to provide the training reported under this activity.

Administration:

- **Total \$ (Federal Funds) used to administer program:** Enter the total dollar \$ amount (report federal grant funds only) used by the State to administer the VFA program. (Example: up to 10% of grant amount awarded to a state can be used to administer the VFA program).

Communities Assisted:

- **Total # of Communities assisted under VFA:** Enter the total # of communities that received assistance as a result of federal Volunteer Fire Assistance funding. Be sure to include any communities that received firefighter training.

Program Totals

This block should be the total dollar amount of the VFA funds (both National Fire Plan and Core funding) awarded to the state.