

STATE OF _____
VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA)
PROGRAM NARRATIVE
FISCAL YEAR 200_

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 departments. Populations of rural communities cannot exceed 10,000. 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:

- Annual Accomplishments must be reported using attached form:
Figure #1 OPTIONAL FY-20____ Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) REPORT.
- Quarterly reporting/update of grant accomplishments/activities via the National Fire Plan Information (NFP Info) 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:

Figure 1
OPTIONAL FY-20 ____ Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) REPORT

STATE: _____

DATE: _____

1. Total number of VFA applications received: _____
2. Total dollar value of VFA applications received: _____
3. Total number of VFA applications approved: _____
4. Total dollar value of VFA applications approved - **Applicant share:** _____
5. Total dollar value of VFA applications approved - **Federal share:** _____
6. Total dollar value of VFA applications approved - **State contribution if applicable:** _____
7. Total Federal VFA dollars expended on equipment: (please break down by category below) _____
 - Safety equipment (SCBA, personal alarms, protective clothing, etc.). _____
 - Communications Equipment (radios, alerting systems, etc.): _____
 - Water or foam application equipment (nozzles, hoses, folding tanks, portable pumps, compressors, etc.): _____
 - Dry hydrant/cistern installation: _____
 - Rescue equipment/hazmat equipment: _____
 - Other equipment (forcible entry tools, chain saws, etc.). _____
8. Total Federal VFA dollars expended on training: _____
9. Total Federal VFA dollars expended on organization: _____
10. Total Federal VFA dollars expended on fire protection and public relations activities: _____
11. Total Federal VFA dollars expended for State administrative costs: *(This total should include any Federal dollars retained by the State for program administration. It would normally be the total VFA grant dollars received by the State from the Forest Service for the Federal fiscal year.)* _____
12. Number of persons trained with VFA funds. _____
13. Total Federal VFA dollars expended from previous year funding: _____
14. Total **un-obligated** VFA funds at the end of current physical year. _____
15. Please submit newspaper clippings and other written material that emphasize VFA success stories and unique uses of VFA funding to improve fire protection or to lower insurance rates.
16. Prepare bullet statements describing program success and attach to this form.

