

# State by State: Accomplishment Highlights for FY 2011

## *Cooperative Fire Programs*

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



**Description:** It is vital that communities effectively prepare for and manage wildland fire to protect lives and property and to maintain healthy forests and grasslands. Grants, technical assistance, and surplus equipment are offered to State and local partners through the Cooperative Fire Protection Program. This assistance supports State wildland fire programs that serve the more than 40 percent of the Nation's population that lives in the 20 Northeast and Midwest States.

### **Key Issues:**

- Local volunteer fire departments are critical to wildland fire suppression in the Northeast and Midwest.
- Federal assistance is critical to effective fire management programs across multiple jurisdictions.

### **Accomplishments:**

**Connecticut:** State and local partners used State Fire Assistance funds to acquire wildland fire and personal protective equipment. State staff trained 2,500 State and local firefighters in basic wildfire suppression. Smokey Bear visited more than 25,000 people at 120 events. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants helped 38 fire departments purchase equipment for water handling, foam, and communications. More than \$17,000 in equipment was acquired through the Department of Defense (DOD) Fire Fighter Property Program.

**Delaware:** Delaware used National Fire Plan funds in six community hazard mitigation projects and 15 prescribed burns. Project personnel reduced fuels on more than 220 acres of State and private lands, lowering wildfire risk to high-risk communities. More than 100 fire prevention programs reached a total of nearly 9,000 first graders. Wildland fire-related training reached 233 firefighters, and 16 volunteer fire departments received equipment and training funds.

**Illinois:** Illinois used National Fire Plan funds to treat 5,000 acres to reduce the wildfire threat to high-risk communities. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its partners helped develop two Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program gave out more than \$400,000 in grants to fire departments to purchase wildland fire equipment and help modify Federal Excess Personal Property equipment.

**Indiana:** The Indiana Division of Forestry granted \$310,225 in Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to 73 rural fire departments to purchase wildland fire equipment. More than 70 prevention and educational programs benefitted 250 communities. Fire departments acquired more than \$669,000 in property through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program. Fire staff conducted 41 training courses for 765 students. Prescribed fire projects were completed on 267 sites totaling 8,970 acres.

**Iowa:** Iowa used National Fire Plan funds to treat 12,000 acres of hazardous fuels in 273 projects near high-risk communities. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds allowed recipients to buy new equipment for 104 departments and train 300 firefighters. The DOD Fire Fighter Property Program (FFP) and the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) provided vital equipment to fire departments: \$441,581 in FFP property and \$345,100 in equipment loaned through the FEPP.

**Maine:** Maine helped develop three Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Personnel treated hazardous fuels on 450 acres. The State trained 640 firefighters, delivered 75 prevention programs, and provided 93 volunteer fire departments with grants for acquiring equipment and training. Fire departments received \$19,300 in fire equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and \$2.4 million in equipment through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program.

**Maryland:** Maryland used National Fire Plan funds for hazard mitigation and to acquire wildland fire suppression equipment. The State delivered 24 prevention programs and trained 140 agency personnel.

Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments were completed on more than 500 acres of State and private lands, reducing the threat of wildfire to high-risk communities. Forty-five volunteer fire departments received grants for acquiring equipment and training. Departments received over \$1.3 million in fire equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program.

**Massachusetts:** Massachusetts purchased equipment for response vehicles as well as updates to the State's communications system. Staff delivered 17 prevention programs and trained staff from 460 municipal, State, and partnership organizations. Fifty-two communities received wildland fire equipment and training. Federal Excess Personal Property Program acquisitions totaled \$365,787, while the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program provided \$4.3 million in equipment. Prescribed fires were completed on 1,525 acres, which reduced hazardous fuels near high-risk communities.

**Michigan:** Michigan used National Fire Plan funds for 90 prescribed burns on 5,208 acres of State and private lands. Five hundred sixty-five firefighters were tested for fitness and trained in wildland firefighting. One hundred three volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants totaling \$220,513. Departments were loaned \$476,222 in fire equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and acquired more than \$2.4 million in equipment through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program. Four Community Wildfire Protection Plans were completed; two more are underway. Two thousand five hundred wildland fire radio messages aired during the peak fire season. An additional automatic weather station was put in service.

**Minnesota:** Minnesota used National Fire Plan funds to reduce hazardous fuels on 200 acres near high-risk communities. The State trained 2,150 firefighters, while 196 volunteer fire departments received grants for equipment and training. Fire departments were loaned \$14,254 in fire equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and received title to more than \$3.6 million in acquisitions through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program. Several upgraded data collection devices improved the State's fire behavior prediction capability.

**Missouri:** Missouri used National Fire Plan funds to reduce hazardous fuels on 10,000 acres near high-risk communities. Eight hundred forty firefighters received wildfire-related training and 160 volunteer fire departments received equipment grants. Departments were loaned \$248,600 in equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and received title to \$16.7 million in property through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program. Fire prevention programs were held in 95 communities. Redings Mills became the State's first Firewise Communities/USA.

**New Hampshire:** New Hampshire used National Fire Plan funds to reduce hazardous fuels on 40 acres of State lands. More than 2,000 firefighters were trained in the Incident Command System and wildfire suppression. Thirty volunteer fire departments received Volunteer Fire Assistance equipment grants totaling \$40,913. Two new Community Wildfire Protection Plans were developed to help high-risk communities reduce wildfire hazards.

**New Jersey:** New Jersey used National Fire Plan funds to treat hazardous fuels on 6,000 acres, reducing wildfire threats to 20 high-risk communities. Seven hundred fifty firefighters received wildland fire-related training. Thirty-five volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants totaling \$150,000. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program loaned \$2 million in equipment to fire departments. The State and partners delivered 150 wildfire prevention programs.

**New York:** New York used National Fire Plan (NFP) funds to enforce a new springtime burning ban, which reduced wildfires started by debris burning by one-third. NFP funds also supported the purchase of 20 new ATV/UTVs equipped for work with remote fires and prescribed fires. The Division of Lands and Forests in the New York Department of Environmental Conservation mapped 32,000 wildfires reported by New York fire departments as part of its communities-at-risk project. Rangers supported 11 prescribed fires on 330 acres. The State upgraded equipment at 11 weather stations and awarded 446 \$1,000 Volunteer Fire Assistance grants. The State and partners taught 57 wildfire and Incident Command System classes and held 65 fire prevention events.

**Ohio:** Ohio used National Fire Plan funds for prescribed fire and mechanical treatments on 45,671 acres of hazardous fuels on State and private lands, reducing wildfire threats to 50 high-risk communities. Four hundred sixty-eight firefighters received wildland fire-related training. Seventy-nine volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants. Fire departments took title to \$1 million in equipment through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program and were loaned \$207,525 in equipment

through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program. Twenty-five fire prevention programs were conducted, delivering Smokey’s message to 15,000 people.

**Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania used National Fire Plan funds to acquire a wildland fire suppression and support vehicle and to purchase and place wildland fire equipment and tools in caches around the State. Over 5,000 firefighters received wildfire-related training. Grants were given to 165 volunteer fire departments for \$1.3 million worth of equipment acquisition and training. Fire departments were loaned fire equipment valued at \$557,812 through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and took title to more than \$3.8 million in acquisitions through the DOD Fire Fighter Property Program.

**Rhode Island:** Ten volunteer fire departments that collectively serve over 20 communities received \$30,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance grants for acquiring equipment and training. The Smokey Bear program delivered fire prevention messages at 300 wildfire prevention programs. Fifty acres of public and private lands were treated with prescribed fires, reducing wildfire threats to communities at risk. Three hundred twenty firefighters were trained in the Incident Command System and wildland firefighting skills.

**Vermont:** Vermont used National Fire Plan funds for firefighter training, wildland fire gear purchases, prescribed burns to reduce hazardous fuels, dry fire hydrants, resource mobilization, and other projects. Vermont Forestry Division staff trained 460 firefighters and fire staff. Wildland fire gear went to 44 towns using Volunteer Fire Assistance funds. Forestry Division staff worked on five prescribed burns totaling 64 acres. Funding was provided for 15 dry hydrant installation projects. Vermont fire personnel helped with two Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

**West Virginia:** West Virginia used National Fire Plan funds for training firefighters, suppressing wildland fires, acquiring equipment, improving the radio communications network, purchasing firefighter personal protective equipment, and for wildfire prevention programs. More than 675 Fire Prevention programs reached 48,700 students, while 800 firefighters received wildland fire-related training. Volunteer Fire Assistance wildland fire equipment grants went to 35 volunteer fire departments to provide personal protective equipment and wildfire suppression equipment. The West Virginia Division of Forestry promoted Firewise and defensible space concepts in high-risk communities.

**Wisconsin:** Wisconsin used National Fire Plan funds in 36 fuel-reduction projects that included treating 13,000 acres with prescribed fire, mechanically reducing fuels through chipping days, collecting brush, removing storm-damaged trees, and creating and maintaining fuel breaks. The Wisconsin Division of Forestry used State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to provide 50/50 cost share grants to 185 rural fire departments to purchase protective clothing and equipment as well as install dry hydrants. More than 4,000 firefighters received wildfire-related training.

**Budget History:**

<b>Cooperative Fire Protection Program</b> <i>(\$ Thousands)</i>		
	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
State Fire Assistance Program	\$16,494	\$17,427
Volunteer Fire Assistance Program	4,981	4,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,475</b>	<b>\$22,251</b>

**Future Direction:**

- Emphasize effective, efficient use of Federal resources.
- Promote integrating fire management into landscape-scale management planning and implementation.

**Tony L. Ferguson**, Director  
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
 Newtown Square, PA 19073  
 610-557-4103 (-4177 FAX)  
[tferguson@fs.fed.us](mailto:tferguson@fs.fed.us)

**Billy Terry**, Asst. Director  
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200  
 Newtown Square, PA 19073  
 610-557-4145 (-4154 FAX)  
[bterry@fs.fed.us](mailto:bterry@fs.fed.us)

[www.na.fs.fed.us](http://www.na.fs.fed.us)

