

## Massachusetts Obtains Fire Boats through FEPP/FFPP Programs

### The Challenge

Massachusetts is blessed with hundreds of miles of coastline and more than 40 cities and towns directly abutting the ocean. Each municipality fire department is in need of craft that can respond to on-water emergencies including boat fires and rescues. Boats are also needed to access remote locations and for transport of personnel and equipment. The cost to the local volunteer fire departments (VFDs) to purchase this life saving capacity is great and sometimes prohibitive.

### The Solution

Through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) and the new DOD Fire Fighter Property Program (FFPP) the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Bureau of Forest Fire Control was able to acquire four excess Coast Guard response boats for use as fire boats for the communities of Harwich, Dennis, Nantucket and Orleans. These programs provide the opportunity for VFDs and state forestry agencies to screen and acquire excess federal property – trucks, pumps, boats, and other equipment – which can be used locally. The Northeastern Area (NA) provides administrative and technical support to the states to assist in the acquisition of equipment.



The Harwich and Dennis Volunteer Fire Departments show off the boats received through the Federal Excess Property Program and Fire Fighter Property Program. (Photo credit: Dennis, MA Fire Department)

### Resulting Benefits

Providing a boat at no cost is an incredible savings to small (and big) town fire departments. Trailers and motors are often available also. The boats which Massachusetts received were valued at nearly \$32,000 each. Programs such as FEPP and FFPP are greatly appreciated by rural fire departments all across the United States.

### Sharing Success

With the acquisition of these boats, several other fire departments in Massachusetts and Vermont who have limited access to locations other than by boat are screening for boats. ALL fire departments can benefit from these programs in stretching their limited dollars by taking advantage of equipment that is excess to another agency.

*Federal programs such as the Federal Excess Property Program and the Fire Fighter Property Program can greatly enhance the capabilities of fire departments by providing vehicles and equipment.*



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