



## Cooperative Fire Programs

### State by State: Accomplishment Highlights for FY 2017

#### Description:

Wildland fire management is vital to protecting lives and property and to maintaining healthy forests and grasslands. The Northeastern Area Cooperative Fire Protection Program offers grants, technical assistance, and excess Federal equipment across the 20 Northeastern and Midwestern States. This assistance helps to support State wildland fire programs that serve 40 percent of the Nation's population.

#### 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:

The following are State-by-State highlights for FY 2017:

**Connecticut:** The State used State Fire Assistance (SFA) funding for fire preparedness and to acquire wildland fire and personal protective equipment. State staff trained more than 530 State and local firefighters in basic wildfire suppression. Prescribed fire was used to reduce hazardous fuels on 160 acres. Smokey Bear participated in 75 fire prevention events. Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants helped 35 fire departments purchase equipment for water handling, foam, and communications.

**Delaware:** SFA funds aided in four community hazard mitigation projects, reducing fuels on more than 200 acres of State and private lands and lowering wildfire risk to four high-risk communities. More than 100 fire prevention programs reached a total of nearly 9,000 first graders in 57 communities. Wildland fire-related training reached 275 firefighters, while 14 volunteer fire departments and 50 communities received VFA funds for equipment and training.

**Iowa:** The Bureau of Forestry and partners used SFA funds to treat 5,000 acres of hazardous fuels near high-risk communities. VFA funds were used to buy new equipment for 107 departments and train 300 firefighters. The Department of Defense (DoD) Fire Fighter Property (FFP) Program and the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) are vital to fire departments; \$3.2 million in FFP equipment was allocated to fire departments and \$4.7 million in FEPP funding was loaned as well.

**Illinois:** SFA funds aided in the treatment of 8,400 acres, which reduced the wildfire threat to high-risk communities. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its partners assisted with a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The VFA Program provided \$313,093 to 25 volunteer fire departments and 50 local communities. The DNR acquired more than \$4.4 million in DoD Fire Fighter equipment and allocated property to fire departments.

**Indiana:** The Division of Forestry granted \$265,281 in VFA funds to 60 rural fire departments for small wildland fire equipment. Fire departments were loaned \$1.26 million in property under the FEPP and allocated more than \$4.3 million in the FFP Program. Prescribed fire projects were completed on 5,300 acres. Twenty-eight fire prevention programs were completed.

**Massachusetts:** Core funds assisted with the purchase of equipment for wildfire response. Staff delivered 10 prevention programs in 50 communities and trained 455 firefighters from municipal, State, and partnership organizations. Hazardous fuels were treated on more than 473 acres near 13 high-risk communities. Forty communities received wildland fire equipment and training through the VFA Program. FFP Program acquisitions totaled more than \$10.7 million; vehicles, emergency medical equipment, and other items were allocated to departments.



**Maryland:** One hundred-ninety agency and volunteer fire department personnel received wildland fire-related training. More than 3,428 acres of State and private lands were treated to reduce the threat of wildfire to high-risk communities. Eight Community Wildfire Protection Plans were developed, which will protect 64 communities. Thirty-five volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants. Maryland has participated in the DoD FFP Program for about 2 years and has acquired more than \$902,855 in fire equipment and \$1.4 million in acquisitions via the FEPP.

**Maine:** The State trained 360 firefighters and delivered 50 prevention programs that assisted 120 communities. Two hundred acres were treated either through prescribed fire or mechanical means to reduce the threat of wildfires that would affect 15 communities. Maine provided 75 volunteer fire departments with grants for equipment and training. Fire departments received \$1.58 million in equipment under the DoD FFP Program.

**Michigan:** SFA funds aided in 60 prescribed burns on 5,645 acres of State and private lands. Five hundred firefighters were fitness tested and received wildland fire training. One hundred and one volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants totaling \$314,911. Departments were allocated more than \$4.547 million in fire equipment under the DoD FFP Program. Michigan State Incident Management Team refresher training was completed for all members, and 60 information and education programs were presented.

**Minnesota:** SFA funds aided in hazardous fuels reduction on 800 acres near high-risk communities. The State trained 2,000 local firefighters, while 225 volunteer fire departments received grants for equipment and training. Fire departments were allocated more than \$7.53 million in fire equipment under the DoD FFP Program.

**Missouri:** Three hundred fifty firefighters received wildfire-related training, and 170 volunteer fire departments received equipment grants. Departments were allocated \$8.61 million in equipment under the DoD FFP Program, and \$1.1 million in equipment was loaned under the FEPP. Fire prevention programs were held in 65 communities. Prescribed fire was used to treat 10,000 acres.

**New Hampshire:** SFA funds aided in reducing hazardous fuels on 25 acres of State lands. More than 695 firefighters were trained in Incident Command and wildfire suppression. Twenty fire prevention and education programs were targeted throughout the State to benefit 200 communities. Thirty volunteer fire departments received VFA equipment grants totaling \$57,000. This is the first year New Hampshire participated in the DoD FFP Program and acquired \$611,680 in property and allocated equipment to departments.

**New Jersey:** SFA funds aided in treating hazardous fuels on 17,900 acres, which reduced wildfire threats to 50 high-risk communities. Thirty-five volunteer fire departments received \$172,067 in equipment and training grants. Fire departments were allocated \$1.5 million in equipment through the DoD FFP Program. Wildfire Risk Reduction grant funds were used to support the State's Firewise Communities through three programs (Ready, Set, Go!, the Sustainable Jersey program, and the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network Hub) and provide grants to 20 communities to mitigate hazardous fuels.

**New York:** Core SFA funds were used to purchase various types of wildland fire equipment for response preparedness, including personal protective equipment. Rangers supported fuels treatments on 625 acres. A total of 2,650 students attended wildfire and Incident Command classes, and 66 fire prevention events were held. More than 400 \$1,000 VFA grants were awarded, and more than 5,000 firefighters were trained.

**Ohio:** Five hundred twenty firefighters received wildland fire training. Seventy-five volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants. The State is establishing three new fire departments with VFA grant funds. Fire departments were loaned equipment valued at \$154,126 through the FEPP. Wildfire Risk Reduction grant funds were used to support mitigation efforts in the 82 communities at risk covered by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) through outreach and education, implementing CWPPs, and using prescribed fire to reduce fuels on more than 9,500 acres.

**Pennsylvania:** More than 4,500 firefighters received wildfire-related training. One hundred thirty volunteer fire departments received more than \$606,322 in grants for equipment acquisition and training. Fire departments were allocated fire and emergency equipment valued at more than \$1.34 million through the FFP Program.

**Rhode Island:** Twelve volunteer fire departments serving 12 communities received \$28,407 in VFA grants for equipment acquisition and training. Fire departments were allocated fire and emergency equipment valued at \$218,026 through the DoD FFP Program. The Smokey Bear program delivered fire prevention messages at 10 wildfire prevention programs. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments were used to treat 24 acres of public and private lands to reduce wildfire threats to three communities at risk. One hundred fifty-nine firefighters received training in Incident Command and wildland firefighting.

**Vermont:** SFA funds aided in firefighter training, the purchase of wildland fire gear, prescribed burning to reduce hazardous fuels, mobilization of resources, and other projects. Vermont trained 310 firefighters and fire staff. Wildland fire gear went to 50 towns using VFA funds. SFA funding allowed one prescribed burn totaling 8 acres to be implemented for ecosystem restoration and hazardous fuels reduction.

**West Virginia:** SFA funds aided in training, wildland fire suppression, equipment acquisition, improvements to the radio network, purchase of firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE), and wildfire prevention programs. More than 250 fire prevention programs reached 135 communities. Prepared three new CWPPs. Eighty firefighters received wildland fire training. VFA wildland fire equipment grants went to 60 volunteer fire departments to provide PPE and wildfire suppression equipment. Fire departments were allocated fire and emergency equipment valued at \$234,981 through the DoD FFP Program.

**Wisconsin:** SFA funds aided in 25 fuels reduction projects. A total of 1,360 acres were treated with prescribed fire, and 340 acres were mechanically treated and the resulting biomass utilized. The Division used SFA and VFA funds to provide 50/50 cost share grants to 230 rural fire departments for protective clothing and equipment purchases as well as dry hydrant installation. More than 150 firefighters received wildfire-related training. Their “Be Ember Aware” prevention campaign was utilized statewide, reaching thousands of residents and visitors.

**Budget:**

**Northeastern Area Cooperative Fire Protection Program**

Program	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
State Fire Assistance Program	\$13,032,000	\$12,748,000	\$12,454,000	\$12,628,000
Volunteer Fire Assistance Program	4,085,000	4,091,000	3,961,000	4,576,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,117,000</b>	<b>\$16,839,000</b>	<b>\$16,415,000</b>	<b>\$17,204,000</b>

FY=Fiscal Year

**Future Direction:**

- Support implementation of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and Northeast Regional Action Plan across the 20 Northeastern States.
- Promote the integration of fire management into landscape-scale management planning and implementation.

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