

Cooperative Fire Programs

State by State: Accomplishment Highlights for FY 2013

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



Description: Wildland fire management is vital to protecting lives and property and to maintaining healthy forests and grasslands. The Cooperative Fire Protection Program offers grants, technical assistance, and excess Federal equipment across the 20 Northeast and Midwest States. This assistance helps 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:

Connecticut: The State used State Fire Assistance Funding to acquire wildland fire and personal protective equipment. State staff trained 1,430 State and local firefighters in basic wildfire suppression. Smokey Bear participated in 75 fire prevention events. Volunteer Fire Assistance grants helped 30 fire departments purchase equipment for water handling, foam, and communications.

Delaware: National Fire Plan funds were used in five community hazard mitigation projects, reducing fuels on more than 200 acres of State and private lands and lowering wildfire risk to five high-risk communities. More than 100 fire prevention programs reached a total of nearly 10,000 first graders. Wildland fire-related training reached 360 firefighters, while 16 volunteer fire departments received funds for equipment and training.

Illinois: National Fire Plan funds were used in the treatment of 5,000 acres, reducing the wildfire threat to high-risk communities. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and its partners assisted with a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program provided \$300,000 to 35 local volunteer fire departments.

Indiana: The Indiana Division of Forestry granted \$230,015 in Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to 63 rural fire departments for small wildland fire equipment. A long-term fuels monitoring initiative began in an area hit by an EF5 tornado. Fire departments were loaned \$86,308 in property under the Federal Excess Personal Property program. Prescribed fire projects were completed on 435 acres.

Iowa: The Iowa Bureau of Forestry and its partners used National Fire Plan funds to treat 5,300 acres of hazardous fuels near high-risk communities. Volunteer Fire Assistance funds bought new equipment for 75 departments and trained 300 firefighters. The Department of Defense Fire Fighter Property Program and the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program provided vital equipment to fire departments; \$660,000 in FEPP equipment was loaned to departments.

Maine: The State helped with the development of 10 Community Wildfire Protection Plans. Hazardous fuels were treated on 300 acres. The State trained 600 firefighters, delivered 440 prevention programs, and provided 75 volunteer fire departments with grants for equipment and training. Fire departments received \$45,000 in fire equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Maryland: National Fire Plan funds were used to help with hazard mitigation and preparedness. One hundred eighty agency and volunteer fire department personnel received wildland fire-related training. More than 250 acres of State and private lands were treated to reduce the threat of wildfire to high-risk communities. Twenty-eight volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants. Departments received \$627,686 in fire equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Massachusetts: Core funds were used to help purchase equipment for response vehicles and updates for the State's communications system. Staff delivered 75 prevention programs and trained 350 firefighters from municipal, State, and partnership organizations. Forty-three communities received wildland fire equipment and training. Federal Excess Personal Property program acquisitions totaled \$2,928. The State treated 1,450 acres with prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels near high-risk communities.

Michigan: National Fire Plan funds were used in 30 prescribed burns on 1,500 acres of State and private lands. Three hundred firefighters were tested for fitness and received wildland fire training. One hundred six volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants totaling \$223,556. Departments were loaned \$500,157 in fire equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property program. Two Community Wildfire Protection Plans were completed and 30 information and education programs were presented.

Minnesota: National Fire Plan funds were used to help with hazardous fuels reduction on 300 acres near high-risk communities. The State trained 325 firefighters, while 175 volunteer fire departments received grants for equipment and training. Fire departments were loaned \$82,634 in equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Missouri: National Fire Plan funds were used in hazardous fuels reduction on 10,000 acres near high-risk communities. Five hundred firefighters received wildfire-related training, and 175 volunteer fire departments received equipment grants. Departments were loaned \$118,879 in equipment under the Federal Excess Personal Property program. Fire prevention programs were held in 65 communities.

New Hampshire: National Fire Plan funds were used to reduce hazardous fuels on 20 acres of State lands. Over 600 firefighters were trained in Incident Command and wildfire suppression. Twenty-five volunteer departments received Volunteer Fire Assistance equipment grants totaling \$38,655. Two Community Wildfire Protection Plans were developed to help high-risk communities reduce wildfire hazards.

New Jersey: National Fire Plan funds were used to treat hazardous fuels on 3,050 acres, reducing wildfire threats to 20 high-risk communities. Three thousand five hundred firefighters received wildland fire-related training. Thirty-five volunteer departments received \$135,000 in equipment and training grants. Fire departments were loaned \$1.5 million in equipment through the Federal Excess Personal Property program. Two hundred seven wildfire prevention programs were delivered.

New York: National Fire Plan funds were used to help the State enforce a springtime burning ban, which is reducing the number of wildfires caused by debris burning. Rangers supported prescribed fires on 131 acres. Over 345 \$1,000 Volunteer Fire Assistance grants were awarded and more than 5,000 firefighters were trained. Six thousand six hundred twenty-five students attended wildfire and Incident Command classes and 81 fire prevention events were held.

Ohio: National Fire Plan funds were used to treat 78,000 acres of hazardous fuels on State and private lands, reducing wildfire threats to 100 high-risk communities. Five hundred ninety firefighters received wildland fire training. Eighty-eight volunteer fire departments received equipment and training grants. Fire departments were loaned equipment valued at \$150,438 through the Federal Excess Personal Property program. One hundred fire prevention programs were conducted, delivering Smokey's message to more than 200 communities.

Pennsylvania: National Fire Plan funds were used to acquire a wildland fire suppression and support vehicle, and purchase and provide wildland fire equipment and tools around the State. Over 4,200 firefighters received wildfire-related training. One hundred twenty-five volunteer fire departments received \$500,000 in grants for equipment acquisition and training. Fire departments were loaned fire equipment worth \$235,321 through the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

Rhode Island: Ten volunteer fire departments serving 20 communities received \$25,863 in Volunteer Fire Assistance grants for equipment acquisition and training. The Smokey Bear program delivered fire prevention messages at 300 wildfire prevention programs. Prescribed fire was used to treat 40 acres of public and private lands, reducing wildfire threats to communities at risk. Three hundred twelve firefighters received training in Incident Command and wildland firefighting.

Vermont: National Fire Plan funds were used for firefighter training, purchase of wildland fire gear, prescribed burns to reduce hazardous fuels, dry fire hydrants, resource mobilization, and other projects. Forestry Division staff trained 660 firefighters and fire staff. Wildland fire gear went to 44 towns using Volunteer Fire Assistance funds. Forestry Division staff worked on three prescribed burns totaling 55 acres. Vermont fire personnel helped with two new Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

West Virginia: National Fire Plan funds were used in training, wildland fire suppression, equipment acquisition, improvements to the radio network, purchase of firefighter personal protective equipment (PPE), and wildfire prevention programs. Over 100 fire prevention programs reached 285 communities. One hundred fifty-five firefighters received wildland fire training. Volunteer Fire Assistance wildland fire equipment grants went to 45 volunteer fire departments to provide PPE and wildfire suppression equipment. The Division of Forestry continued to promote Firewise and defensible space concepts in high-risk communities. Twenty-three communities in the State are now at reduced risk for wildland fires.

Wisconsin: National Fire Plan funds were used in 40 fuels reduction projects. Five thousand acres were treated with prescribed fire and 500 acres were treated through wood chipping, brush collection, removal of storm-damaged trees, and fuel breaks. The Division used State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance funds to provide 50/50 cost-share grants to 210 rural fire departments for protective clothing and equipment purchases as well as dry hydrant installation. More than 125 firefighters received wildfire-related training.

Budget History:

Cooperative Fire Protection Program				
<i>(\$ Thousands)</i>				
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
State Fire Assistance Program	\$17,427	\$15,335	\$13,671	TBD
Volunteer Fire Assistance Program	4,824	4,163	3,948	TBD
Total	\$22,251	\$19,498	\$17,619	TBD

Future Direction:

- Emphasize effective, efficient use of Federal resources.
- Promote the integration of 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

Owen Martin, Fire Director
 11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
 Newtown Square, PA 19073
 610-557-4145 (4154-FAX)
omartin01@fs.fed.us

www.na.fs.fed.us

