The **2015 Volunteer Fire Assistance Program** is available for communities with a population of 10,000 or less, and who do not have adequate fire protection. If qualified, a community may receive up to 50% cost-share toward the purchase of 2-way radios, protective clothing, breathing apparatus, and firefighting equipment. A community project to provide combustion (smoke) detectors for rural residences may also qualify.

Communities desiring financial assistance should return the project application by **April 15, 2015**, so that approvals can be made based on available funds and priority of needs. Notices of projects approved or disapproved will be mailed approximately two weeks after the closing deadline. **These funds are contingent upon this program being funded nationally.**

Funds **will not** be allocated for construction of fire halls or the purchase of new fire trucks, town sirens, or EMS/rescue equipment supplies. Also, purchases made prior to approval of the project application do not qualify. **You may not use federal monies from any other source for the local match on these projects. The applying fire district must be NIMS (National Incident Management System) compliant.**

It is **MANDATORY** that the department or district **Federal ID number** is provided on your cost-share application. **If it is not, your application will not be processed.** Departments/districts should already have an ID number since it is required when the department/district files its yearly budget, BUT, if you cannot locate it, ask the IRS to search for your EIN by calling the Business & Specialty Tax Line at (800) 829-4933. The hours of operation are 7:00 am - 7:00 pm local time, Monday - Friday. An assistor will ask you for identifying information and provide the number to you over the telephone, as long as you are authorized to receive it. If you do call, please be patient and be prepared to be placed on “hold” for a while. It can be a slow process.

If you do not currently have a Federal ID number, you may apply online for one at the following website: [http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html). When you scroll down to the bottom of this web page, there is an “Apply Online Now” link that will take you through the process. Obtaining this ID number should be done now, rather than waiting until you are possibly approved.

**If a community receives approval for their project, they should plan to complete that project by September 15, 2015.**

This cost-share money comes from the USDA Forest Service and the program is being administered by the Nebraska Forest Service. If you have questions, call Don Westover at 402-472-6629 or email dwestover1@unl.edu.

**Submit applications to:**
- Nebraska State Forester
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Attn: Don Westover
- 102 Forestry Hall
- Lincoln, NE 68583-0815

**Deadline for Applications: April 15, 2015**