Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Funds  
Nebraska Forest Service  
102 Forestry Hall, EC, UNL, 68583-0815

The 2013 Volunteer Fire Assistance Program is available for communities under 10,000 population which 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 fire fighting 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, 2013, 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 and 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 your yearly budget is filed, 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 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. local time, Monday through 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 awhile. It is a slow process. (If you have misplaced your EIN, call Sandy at 402.472.6623 and she will give you instructions on how to get it replaced.)

If you do not currently have a Federal ID number, you may apply online at the following Web site: http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/article/0,,id=102767,00.html. If you will scroll down to the bottom of this Web site page, there is a “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, 2013.

This cost-share money comes from the USDA Forest Service and the program is being administered by the Nebraska Forest Service. Applications should be returned to the Nebraska State Forester, Nebraska Forest Service, 102 Forestry Hall, IANR, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68583-0815 and to the attention of Sandy Lineberry. Any questions, please call 402.472.6623 or e-mail sandra.lineberry@unl.edu.

Deadline for return of form - September 15, 2013