

FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY/ FIREFIGHTER PROPERTY

The Nebraska Forest Service(NFS) provides direct support and assistance to Rural Fire and Volunteer Fire Districts utilizing the Federal Excess Personal Property and Firefighter Property programs. Our Fire Shop facilitates the acquisition, repair, and maintenance of the excess federal property that has usefulness to VFDs, RFDs and state fire agencies for wildland firefighting efforts in Nebraska.

WILDLAND FIRE TRAINING

NFS provides National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training to local, state, and federal personnel. Staff work directly with local fire chiefs and firefighters to assist in the training for wildland fire suppression, fire behavior, and mitigation tactics through classrooms and hands-on training. This training is provided at no cost to the department.



STATE FIRE ASSISTANCE

Referred to as the SFA, this program provides financial and technical support. This funding is available on a 50/50 cost-share basis for hazard mitigation only.

Funding is specifically targeted to support the hazard mitigation activities in the wildland urban interface. The goal is to reduce loss of life and property by reducing the hazard associated with the build up of forest fuels.

In order to qualify, a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) must be developed with the help of local emergency managers and area VFDs. The plan needs to determine areas of vulnerability and high risk for wildland fire.



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NEBRASKA FOREST SERVICE



REPORTING WILDFIRES

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Reporting wildfire activity is an increasingly vital tool that supports many of our state's volunteer fire department initiatives, such as the Volunteer Fire Assistance, Federal Excess Personal Property & Firefighter Property, and State Fire Assistance programs. This brochure is meant to serve as a reference guide to reporting wildfires in your district. If you have additional questions about any of these programs, please refer to the back panel for contact information.

VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Commonly called VFA, this program provides federal financial assistance, through the USDA Forest Service, to Nebraska's volunteer fire departments (VFDs). The purpose of these funds is to help VFDs acquire necessary equipment, prevention material, and training for fighting wildland fires.



This cost-share program, managed by the Nebraska Forest Service (NFS), provides up to 50% of the cost for new equipment purchases. The grant application is available to VFDs in the spring of each year, usually April, on the NFS website and mailed directly to each department; a maximum grant is \$5,000.

Each year, the application identifies priority types of equipment or activities for funding items, such as 2-way radios, protective clothing, breathing apparatus, etc.

The grant application is intentionally brief (one page). Be sure to fill out **all** areas of the application, include total cost of the purchase or project, and the amount of funds being requested. Identify the type of equipment needed and its purpose, and describe if this is a replacement or new purchase for your department.

Make sure your department's wildfire reports are up-to-date. This is crucial, as the number of grant dollars available is directly tied to the number of fires reported, acres burned, and reports submitted.

When scoring grant applications, significant bonus points are awarded for *complete wildfire reporting, due to the nature of how federal funding is allocated to each state.**

** Complete reporting is a minimum of one (1) report each month. A "no response" report is to be completed only in months of no wildfire activity.*

9 STEPS TO REPORT WILDFIRES

1. Go to the NFS web site: nfs.unl.edu/fire
2. In the "Fire Reporting" section, click submit a report.
3. From the Fire Department drop down, select your department. Type in your password (case-sensitive). If you do not know your password, call the NFS.
4. Fire Chief, RFD President, Secretary/Treasurer contacts will be on this page; if you wish to go directly to reporting, select the YES button on the right. (Periodically review this information to confirm it's current).
5. To report a new fire response, click "add a new report."
6. Response Type will allow you to select from: 1.) wildfire (primary responder), 2.) mutual aid (for wildfire) or 3.) no response (no wildfires) for the month. Select the appropriate response.
7. Fill out the report sheet, this will take less than five minutes.
8. Information needed as **primary** responder to a wildfire:
 - Time out & return time
 - Fire cause
 - Estimated acres burned (at least .01)
 - Number of firefighters & equipment
 - Homes threatened or destroyed
 - On reporting map: drag red map pin to approximate fire location
9. Click submit button at bottom of page.