



April 30, 2012

Dear Forest Warden,

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is now accepting applications for the 2012 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant round. Funding for this program is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and is administered by the Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry.

Non-profit rural call or volunteer fire departments that provide service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less are invited to apply. Fire departments must be made up of at least 80% call or volunteer firefighters and be recognized as a department under state law.

Funds are to be dispersed through the Cooperative Fire Protection and the National Fire Plan's "Communities at Risk" monies. Communities may apply for either or both of the Cooperative Fire Protection (CFP) and the National Fire Plan's (NFP) funds at this time.

CFP eligible proposed projects will be those within the categories of firefighter safety, technology transfer, and rural fire defense. Your application must describe your project and how it relates to the above categories.

NFP eligible proposed projects will be considered in the following priority: (1) high risk communities adjacent to federal lands (2) those communities working in partnership with federal firefighting agencies in responding to wildland fires (3) high risk communities within the state, not associated with federal lands. Your application must describe your project and how it relates to the above categories.

Successful applicants must first bear the full cost of the project (up to \$4,000). Funding is available on a 50% reimbursement basis only. Total product match/reimbursement amount shall not exceed a \$2,000 value. Reimbursement is available for cash expenditures only, but the applicant's share of the project may include either cash expenditures or in-kind services (donations, volunteer hours etc).

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Roxanne B. Savoie, Forest Fire Program Coordinator
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Deval L. Patrick
Governor
Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

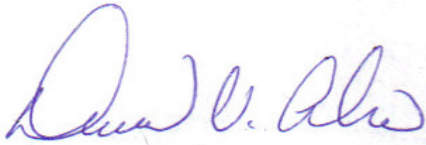
Rick K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Edward M. Lambert Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Projects MAY NOT BEGIN until grant-award notification to the town has been made.

An application with eligibility guidelines is attached for your completion. The completed applications must be received by Program Coordinator Roxanne B. Savoie, DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control, Hampton Ponds State Park, 1048 North Road/Route 202, Westfield, Massachusetts 01085 on or before June 4, 2012.

We welcome your participation in this program. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Savoie at 413 538-9092 x 400 or roxanne.savoie@state.ma.us.

Sincerely,



David V. Celino
DCR Chief Fire Warden

cc: Roxanne B. Savoie, Forest Fire Program Coordinator
Norma Forgione, Federal Fiscal Officer

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Edward H. Lambert, Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.