



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray  
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.  
DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

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**For Immediate Release: January 5, 2012**

## **Patrick-Murray Administration Awards Volunteer Fire Grants to the Towns of Freetown, Dover, Gosnold and Edgartown**

*Friday's event begins a series of events to award 51 grants to towns across the Commonwealth.*

**WHAT:** On Friday, January 6, 2012, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. will present the first in a series of 2011 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants to the four towns Freetown, Dover, Edgartown and Gosnold.

During the month of January, 51 grants – totaling nearly \$80,000 – will be awarded to communities across the state.

In support of the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to public safety, the grants are designed to assist the state's smaller municipalities by aiding their volunteer fire departments in management efforts, supply and equipment purchases, and enhancing their ability to protect the Commonwealth's forest resources.

The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program is authorized by the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. This grant was offered to all non-profit rural and volunteer fire departments that provide service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less. Fire departments must be made up of at least 80 percent call or volunteer firefighters and be recognized as a department under state law.

Eligible proposed projects are those within firefighter safety, technology transfer and rural fire defense. High-risk communities adjacent to federal lands, those communities working in partnership with federal firefighting agencies in responding to wildland fires and high risk communities within the state not associated with federal lands are considered for award.

Funding for Volunteer Fire Assistance grants is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and administered by the DCR's Forest Fire Control Bureau on a 50 percent reimbursement basis. Reimbursement amounts cap at \$2,000 per community.

**WHO:** DCR Commissioner Lambert  
Rep. Chris Markey  
Freetown Fire Chief Gary Silvia

**WHEN:** 11 a.m. on Friday, January 6, 2012

**WHERE:** Freetown Fire Department, near DCR's Freetown State Forest  
23 Bullock Road, East Freetown, MA 02717  
Phone: 508-763-4828

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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, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. 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](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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