



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.

Press Release Contact: S.J. Port — (617) 626-1453 or sj.port@state.ma.us

For Immediate Release: January 27, 2012

Patrick-Murray Administration Awards Volunteer Fire Grants to the Sunderland Fire Department and 13 other towns of the Central Region

Tuesday's event final in series of events to award 51 grants to towns across the Commonwealth.

WHAT: On Tuesday, January 31, 2012, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. will present the final in a series of 2011 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants to the fourteen towns Ashfield, Buckland, Colrain, Conway, Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, Turner Falls, Whately, Royalston, Templeton, Westminster, and Sunderland.

During the month of January, 51 grants – totaling nearly \$80,000 – has been 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
Sunderland Fire Chief Robert Ahearn
Colrain Deputy Chief Kevin A Worden
Ashfield Fire Chief Del Haskins
Leverett Fire Chief John Moruzzi
Turners Falls Fire Chief Robert Escott

New Salem Fire Chief Joseph Cuneo
Shutesbury Fire Chief Walter Tibbets
Whately Fire Chief John Hannum
Templeton Fire Chief Thomas Smith
Royalston Fire Chief Keith Newton
Conway Fire Chief Robert Baker

WHEN: 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 31, 2012

WHERE: Sunderland Fire Department, near DCR's Shutesbury State Forest
105 River Road, Sunderland, MA 01375
Phone: 413-774-0037

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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. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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251 Causeway Street, Suite 600, Boston, MA 02114 — (617) 626-1250 office / (617) 626-1351 (fax)