

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department



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News Release

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Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Awards Fire Departments

Santa Fe, NM – The New Mexico State Forestry Division has awarded 22 Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA) grants in ten counties to assist rural fire departments who protect communities from catastrophic wildland fire. Helping local government fire departments increase firefighting capacity is a Forestry Division priority. This VFA funding is provided through flow funds made available by the USDA Forest Service.

Awardees

Chavez County - \$25,000
Lincoln County - \$24,234
Rio Arriba County - \$20,000
San Miguel County - \$29,863
Taos County - \$31,859

Guadalupe County - \$12,869
Otero County - \$20,000
Sandoval County - \$20,000
Sierra County - \$10,000
Valencia County - \$15,000

In order to be eligible for VFA, a fire department (or local government representing multiple fire departments) must serve rural communities of less than 10,000 people and use the National Incident Command System in day-to-day operations.

Each VFA grant recipient must provide a 10 percent cost-share match using state or local funds. Although the focus of VFA funding is to strengthen local government's organizational capability to respond to wildland fire, State Forestry also considers funding requests for organizational projects, education and wildland fire prevention projects. The maximum grant amount for equipment projects is \$20,000 and the maximum grant amount for prevention and organizational projects is \$25,000.

If you need assistance, call your local Forestry Division District office. Applications may be obtained via e-mail from Brian Filip, Brian.Filip@state.nm.us, (505) 476-3348.

Please visit www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/RFPs/RFPMain.html for more information.

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.