

# Iowa DNR Forestry - Fire Program Opportunities

**The DNR Forestry - Fire Program**, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, State, Private and Tribal Forestry and other federal, state and local partners, work to provide assistance to the rural volunteer fire departments through a variety of programs and activities in an effort to provide quality fire protection to the state's natural resources.

## Programs:

**State Fire Assistance (SFA)** - Works to protect natural resources from fire on state and private lands through: fire prevention, suppression and fuels management education; training and outreach opportunities.

- **Wildland Fire Prevention Educational and Program Materials:** The DNR Forestry - Fire Program is Iowa's source of SMOKEY BEAR materials. SMOKEY BEAR costumes are available for loan. We offer a wide range of SMOKEY BEAR promotional items appropriate for Wildfire Prevention Program audiences of all ages. (Examples of items available: coloring pages, activity books, rulers, balloons, stickers, tattoos, posters, pencils, label pins, etc.)
- **Wildland Fire and Prescribed Fire Training:** The DNR Forestry - Fire Program staff work to provide wildland fire and prescribed fire training to Natural Resource Managers and Volunteer Fire Department personnel. The following 8 hour courses are available:
  - DNR - ATV/UTV - Fire Operations & Tactics**
  - DNR-VFD Wildland Fire Operations**
  - DNR-VFD Wildland Fire Engine Operations & Tactics**
  - DNR - Prescribed Fire**

For additional information, contact one of the Cooperative Fire Specialists:

Ryan Schlater, 515-233-8067(Office) or 515-979-8739 (Cell), [Ryan.Schlater@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Ryan.Schlater@dnr.iowa.gov) or

Karl Harris, 515-490-8296, [Karl.Harris@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Karl.Harris@dnr.iowa.gov)

- **Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Prevention and Awareness:** The DNR Forestry - Fire Program, the US Forest Service and a wide range of other federal, state, and local partners are working to encourage homeowners and communities to be proactive in identifying and mitigating situations that may prevent effective fire protection in the rural and wildland-urban interface locations.

**Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)** - Improves the capability of Iowa's rural volunteer fire departments to protect lives, structures, and natural resources in rural and wildland/urban interface areas.

**VFA Grants** work to offset the costs of wildland fire equipment and personal safety gear to existing fire departments and to support the organization of new fire departments in unprotected communities (Grants are 50-50 cost-share - maximum allocation per department is \$4500/year). Grant applications are available at [www.iowadnr.gov/fire](http://www.iowadnr.gov/fire).

**Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP)** - Federal excess property is acquired on behalf of the US Forest Service and loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators (volunteer fire departments) for their use in providing wildland and rural community fire protection. To obtain available equipment, Fire Departments must enter into a formal Cooperative Agreement with the DNR Forestry - Fire Program and the USFS.

Once fire departments obtain the equipment, they are expected to paint it and modify it to best fit their needs, in accordance with the agreement and safety guidelines. Fire departments bear the cost of transportation, conversion, painting, storage and maintenance. The equipment usually requires some conversion, but the cost is much less than the purchase of comparable equipment.

Fire Departments are responsible for making conversions in a safe and timely manner; protecting the equipment from theft, vandalism, and weather; painting vehicles in fire service colors; maintaining appropriate liability insurance and returning the equipment, less any added equipment, to the DNR Forestry - Fire Program when no longer needed.

**Department of Defense - Firefighter Property (DOD-FFP)** - This program is similar to the FEPP program, with the exception that generally, once the equipment is modified, ready to put into service and inspected by a DNR Forestry - Fire staff, title is transferred to the Fire Department. The departments are asked to retain ownership for a minimum of five years.

Screening Instructions are provided to Fire Department contacts upon request. Requests for potential pieces of equipment can be made via phone, messaging or e-mail. Property screening is dependent upon items requested and availability. When requesting screening assistance, please provide as much detail as possible along with contact person and telephone number(s), mailing address and e-mail address.

**DLA Federal Supply Service Access (FEDMALL):** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) - in cooperation with the US Forest Service offers wildfire protection equipment and supplies to federal, state and municipal fire agencies and other organizations that operate under formal agreements with the US Forest Service.

The DNR Forestry - Fire Program, as an affiliate of the US Forest Service, can assist fire departments in purchases of fire associated gear from FEDMALL.

If you are interested in the opportunity to purchase wildland fire equipment through FEDMALL, please contact Gail Kantak (515-689-0083); [Gail.Kantak@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Gail.Kantak@dnr.iowa.gov) for assistance with getting quotes or ordering.

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