

John Boyle  
Commissioner

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Department of  
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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## Thirty-two rural Alaska fire departments awarded grants

**(Palmer, AK)** – Today, the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection announced awarding more than \$171,000 to 32 rural fire departments across Alaska. The Volunteer Fire Assistance grants are provided to increase firefighter safety, improve the firefighting capabilities of rural volunteer fire departments, and enhance protection in the wildland-urban interface for Alaskans.

Funding for the grants came from the U.S. Forest Service as a part of the federal Volunteer Fire Assistance program. Alaska's rural fire departments will receive between \$2,500 - \$6,000 to support training, equipment purchases, and prevention activities through a cost share.

"Local fire departments are critical in helping the Division of Forestry and Fire Protection accomplish its mission of protecting Alaskans from wildfire," **said Chief of Fire & Aviation Norm McDonald.** "These funds will help ensure that local partners at rural fire departments are better equipped to fight both structure and wildland fires."

Fire departments can use the funds to purchase portable water tanks, personal protective equipment, firefighting pumps, replace old equipment like hose and nozzles, tools, and other resources used to help fight both structure and wildland fire. To qualify for the grants, fire departments must serve a population of 10,000 or less, be a registered fire department with the Alaska State Fire Marshall, and provide a minimum of 10% non-federal matching funds.

The grant application period runs from Nov. 1 to Jan. 31 annually. For this year's Volunteer Fire Assistance program, the maximum grant was raised to \$6,000 (up from \$5,000) to account for increased costs – especially shipping to rural Alaska. A list of the fire departments and grants is included at the end of this release.

*The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.*

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Fire Department	City	DOF Region	Amount Awarded
Delta Junction VFD	Delta Junction	Delta Area Office	\$ 5,973.88
Rural Deltana VFD	Delta Junction	Delta Area Office	\$ 6,000.00
Chena-Goldstream Fire & Rescue	Fairbanks	Fairbanks Area Office	\$ 5,848.20
North Pole VFD	North Pole	Fairbanks Area Office	\$ 6,000.00
North Star VFD	North Pole	Fairbanks Area Office	\$ 5,959.89
Ester VFD	Ester	Fairbanks Area Office	\$ 5,658.41
Moose Pass Vol. Fire Co.	Moose Pass	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,239.78
Lowell Point VFD	Seward	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 6,000.00
Cooper Landing VFD	Cooper Landing	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,384.36
Western Emergency Services Area	Anchor Point	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,844.96
Seward FD	Seward	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 4,229.32
Bear Creek Fire/EMS dept	Seward	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 3,293.55
Kenai FD	Kenai	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,987.94
Kachemak Emergency Services	Homer	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,923.60
Central Emergency Services	Soldotna	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 5,331.60
Nikisiki FD	Nikisiki	Kenai Kodiak Area Office	\$ 4,358.47
Palmer Fire and Rescue	Palmer	Mat Su Area	\$ 5,759.45
Talkeetna VFD	Talkeetna	Mat Su Area	\$ 6,000.00
Sutton VFD	Sutton	Mat Su Area	\$ 5,999.99
Butte FD	Palmer	Mat Su Area	\$ 5,999.75
Houston FD	Houston	Mat Su Area	\$ 5,931.00
Trapper Creek	Trapper Creek	Mat Su Area	\$ 6,000.00
Girdwood Volunteer Fire & Rescue, INC	Girdwood	Mat Su Area	\$ 5,810.00
Whale Pass VFD	Ketchikan	Southeast Alaska	\$ 3,471.50
Haines VFD	Haines	Southeast Alaska	\$ 6,000.00
Bethel FD	Bethel	Southwest District	\$ 4,963.68
Tok VFD	Tok	Tok Area Office	\$ 5,992.00
Kennicott/McCarthy VFD	McCarthy	Valdez-Copper River Area Office	\$ 5,367.24
Kenny Lake VFD	Copper Center	Valdez-Copper River Area Office	\$ 5,887.71
Gakona VFD	Gakona	Valdez-Copper River Area Office	\$ 5,975.10
GlennRich Fire Rescue	Glennallen	Valdez-Copper River Area Office	\$ 5,611.50
2023 VFA TOTAL			\$ 171,712.88