

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FORESTRY DIVISION

FEPP/FFP Fire boats



FORESTRY DIVISION

Standard Operating Procedure  
Handbook

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture - Forestry Division using screening authority through the U.S. Forest Service, is authorized to procure and loan boats to fire departments in the State.

The purpose of these boats is firefighting and emergency services as are all Federal Excess vehicles obtained and loaned through the Forestry Division. The Forestry Division will obtain these boats based upon a written request from the Fire Chief and as approved by the Forestry Division RFP Coordinator. This request should explain the needs and use for the boat. The Forestry Division RFP Coordinator will prioritize requests and make assignments in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

Fire boats are FEPP or FFP property:

Fire boats that are Federal Excess Personal Property, will not to be assigned to emergency organizations whose primary mission is other than fire protection. Fire protection is the only purpose for which the Forest Service can acquire FEPP for use by State Forestry agencies. Boats that are obtained through the FEPP Program means they always belong to the Federal Government and must be returned when they are no longer of use. Painting must be accomplished within 6 months of the award of the boat.

Fire boats that are Firefighter Personal Property, can be assigned for firefighting and/or emergency services. Ownership may pass to the fire department once requirements are met to include in service within 6 months of issue (meaning painted a non-military color (s) and ready to do it's intended function).

### **PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION**

Our procedure for acquisition and operation of boats from the Forestry Division are as follows:

- The Fire Department must have a signed Cooperative Agreement on file with the Rural Fire Protection office.
- The Fire Department requesting a boat must provide an Equipment Request describing the intended use as either firefighting or emergency service – i.e. search and rescue.
- As boats are acquired, they will be placed based upon the needs of the requesting departments.
- The requesting Fire Department may have to pay the cost of having a boat transported. Some boats may be difficult to transport, move or be in a situation that requires special transportation arrangements. Special vehicles or trailers may have to be arranged for and paid for by the fire department.
- Once a boat is located and offered to the department - insurance, docking, and training for operators must be completed before the boat is used. As with other property, the department will have six (6) months to comply with all requirements.

- Proof of minimum liability insurance must be provided on the boat at that time. This insurance must be maintained at all times that the fire department is in possession of the property.
- Boats, motors, and trailers may have separate shipping documents.

### **Standard Operating Guideline**

- Staffing shall consist of a minimum of two (2) qualified and trained personnel.
- Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device's will be worn at all times by all persons when the apparatus is in operation.
- Recreational use of the apparatus is **expressly forbidden**. All safe boating rules and regulations shall apply at all times.
- All personnel involved in the operation of the apparatus or its assignment will successfully complete a Coast Guard Auxiliary or Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Safe Boating class.
- Apparatus is to be operated at all times within the manufacturers safe operating parameters (i.e. engine rpm, safe operating speeds, weight limits and capacities).
- Civilians are forbidden to ride on the apparatus without the approval of a Fire Department officer, or in the event of an emergency.