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Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments Receive Wildfire Suppression Kits from Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Rural Fire Protection program, managed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division, received \$294,442.24 to purchase and distribute 96 Wildfire Suppression Kits to rural volunteer fire departments. The money was awarded as part of the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant from the United States Forest Service.

Volunteer fire departments are the primary partner of Forestry Division crews in wildfire response and suppression, but they are often in need of the specialized equipment and gear necessary for safe wildfire suppression. The equipment distributed this year in the Wildfire Suppression Kits included lightweight wildfire-resistant coveralls and gloves, hand rakes, back-pack water pumps, and leaf blowers. Since 2014, more than 490 volunteer fire departments have received Wildfire Suppression Kits through the Rural Fire Protection program valued at \$1,499,411.34.

Any volunteer fire department interested in participating in the Wildfire Suppression Kit program must submit an application, which is then scored according to specific criteria including fire district population, the size of the response area, wildfire equipment response needs, and other factors. The next application period for the Wildfire Suppression Kit program is expected to begin August 2021.

Fire Departments should receive an application by mail, or they can be found at www.agriculture.arkansas.gov/forestry/rural-fire-protection-program/ when the application period opens. Fire Departments may contact Kathryn Mahan-Hooten at kathryn.mahan@agriculture.arkansas.gov or (501) 679-3183 with questions regarding the application.

Fire departments receiving kits in 2021 are listed below by fire department and county.

Acorn/Polk	Biscoe/Prairie	Cushman/Independence
Allison Sylamore/Stone	Bismarck/Hot Spring	Delight/Pike
Alread/Van Buren	Black Fork/Scott	Dutch Creek/Yell
Altus Rural/Franklin	Bohannon	England/Lonoke
Aly-Chula/Yell	Mountain/Madison	Evening Shade/Sharp
Atkins/Pope	Cale/Nevada	Farmington/Washington
Augusta/Woodruff	Choctaw/Van Buren	Fifty Six/Stone
Barnes Rural/Franklin	Cossatot/Sevier	Forum-Alabam/Madison
Beaverfork/Faulkner	Cove Creek	Franklin/Izard
Beirne/Clark	Pearson/Cleburne	Fulton/Hempstead
Big Fork/Polk	District 4/Crawford	Galla Rock/Yell
Bigelow/Perry	District 7/Crawford	Genoa/Miller

Grapevine/Grant	Mount Nebo/Yell	Ruthie Mountain/Izard
Gravette/Benton	Newhope/Pike	Sedgwick/Lawrence
Greers Ferry/Cleburne	Nob Hill/Washington	Shaw/Saline
Haroco/Searcy	Oak Hill/Little River	Sidney/Sharp
Harrisburg/Poinsett	Old Union/Union	Stamps/Lafayette
Hasty/Newton	Omaha Rural/Boone	Sturkie/Fulton
Hickory Flat/White	Oxford/Izard	Subiaco Crossroads/Logan
Hilltop/Faulkner	Palestine/St. Francis	Sulphur Springs/Benton
Hoxie/Lawrence	Pea Ridge/Benton	Summit/Marion
Imboden/Lawrence	Peach Orchard/Clay	Sweet Home/Pulaski
Ione Community/Logan	Peppers Lake/Prairie	Tollette/Howard
Joplin/Montgomery	Perrytown/Hempstead	Tyrone/Poinsett
Kansas Community/Clark	Pleasant	Ulm/Prairie
Krooked Kree/Boone	Plains/Independence	Valley Springs/Boone
Lee County/Lee	Pleasant View/Franklin	Vilonia/Faulkner
Lepanto/Poinsett	Poughkeepsie/Sharp	Waldo/Columbia
Liberty/Faulkner	Prim/Cleburne	Water Valley/Randolph
London Rural/Pope	Quail Creek/Pulaski	Watson Chapel/Jefferson
Lono-Rolla/Hot Spring	Quitman/Cleburne	Wesley/Madison
Melbourne/Izard	Rector/Clay	Williams Junction/Perry
Milo/Ashley	Rocky Rural/Polk	Wooster/Faulkner

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