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Arkansas Volunteer Fire Departments Receive Wildfire Suppression Kits

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Rural Fire Protection program, managed by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture’s Forestry Division, received \$279,562.45 as part of the 2021 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant from the United States Forest Service to purchase and distribute 87 Wildfire Suppression Kits to rural volunteer fire departments. The kits include equipment and gear necessary for the safe suppression of wildfires and have been delivered to the volunteer fire departments listed below.

Volunteer fire departments are the primary partner to Forestry crews in wildfire response and suppression but often need the specialized equipment and gear necessary for safe wildfire suppression. Since 2014, 579 volunteer fire departments have received Wildfire Suppression Kits through the Rural Fire Protection program. Kits distributed this year include lightweight wildfire-resistant coveralls and gloves, hand rakes, back-pack water pumps, and leaf blowers.

Volunteer fire departments interested in participating in the Wildfire Suppression Kit program submit applications that are scored according to specific criteria including fire district population, the size of the response area, wildfire response equipment needs, and other factors. The application period for next year’s Wildfire Protection Kit program is expected to start in August of 2022. Fire Departments can expect to receive notification in the mail, or can find an application online at 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 the Wildfire Suppression Kits through the 2021 grant are listed below by fire department and county:

Anthonyville FD / Crittenden Co.	Hill Creek FD / Conway Co.	Plainview FD / Yell Co.
Arden FD / Little River Co.	Hollis FD / Perry Co.	Portia FD / Lawrence Co.
Avoca FD / Benton Co.	Hopewell FD / Cleburne Co.	Prattsville FD / Grant Co.
Big Flat FD / Baxter Co.	Huntington FD / Sebastian Co.	Ratcliff Rural FD / Logan Co.
Blackwell FD / Conway Co.	Hwy 286 East FD / Faulkner Co.	Rea Valley FD / Marion Co.
Buena Vista FD / Ouachita Co.	Hwy 94 East FD / Benton Co.	Roseville FD / Logan Co.
Cane Creek FD / Grant Co.	Japton FD / Madison Co.	Salttillo FD / Faulkner Co.
Capps – Batavia FD / Boone Co.	Johnson Co. #6/ Johnson Co.	Sardis FD / Conway Co.
Casa FD / Perry Co.	Keiser FD / Mississippi Co.	St. Vincent FD / Conway Co.
Cash FD / Craighead Co.	Kirby FD / Pike Co.	Tillar FD / Desha Co.
Center Grove FD / Grant Co.	Little Flock FD / Benton Co.	Tri-Community FD / Lonoke Co.
Chidester FD / Ouachita Co.	Locust Bayou FD / Calhoun Co.	Tull FD / Grant Co.
Cleveland FD / Conway Co.	Lonsdale FD / Garland Co.	Tumbling Shoals- Ida FD / Cleburne Co.
Dalton FD / Randolph Co.	Martin Creek FD / Sharp Co.	Turrell FD / Crittenden Co.
Damascus FD / Van Buren Co.	Martin Township FD / Pope Co.	Valley View FD / Craighead Co.
DeQueen FD / Sevier Co.	Maysville FD / Benton Co.	Waldon City FD / Scott Co.
Dermott FD / Chicot Co.	McGehee FD / Desha Co.	Walker Creek FD / Lafayette Co.
Diaz FD / Jackson Co.	Midland Rural FD / Sebastian Co.	Warm Springs FD / Randolph Co.
East Monroe Co Rural FD / Monroe Co.	Monette FD / Craighead Co.	Washington FD / Hempstead Co.
Eudora FD / Chicot Co.	Mt. Ida FD / Montgomery Co.	Welcome Home FD / Searcy Co.
Faircrest FD / Union Co.	Nevada Co. Fire & Rescue/ Nevada Co.	Weldon FD / Jackson Co.
Fox FD/ Stone Co.	Norfolk FD / Baxter Co.	West Fork FD / Washington Co.
Frenchport FD / Ouachita Co.	Northwest Scott Co. FD / Scott Co.	Western Greene Co. FD / Greene Co.
Gould FD / Lincoln Co.	Ogden FD / Little River Co.	Whitehouse FD / Washington Co.
Grassy Knob FD / Carroll Co.	Ouachita Co. Fire District #1/ Ouachita Co.	Widener FD / St. Francis Co.
Grayson FD / Logan Co.	Oxley FD / Searcy Co.	Wilburn FD / Cleburne Co.
Greenway FD / Clay Co.	Parthenon FD / Newton Co.	Winthrop FD/ Little River Co.
Hamburg FD / Ashley Co.	Perryville FD / Perry Co.	Woodlawn FD / Cleveland Co
Higginson FD / White Co.	Piney Point FD / Benton Co.	

The Arkansas Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the development and implementation of policies and programs for Arkansas agriculture and forestry to keep its farmers and ranchers competitive in national and international markets while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of the state and nation. Visit agriculture.arkansas.gov/. The Arkansas Department of Agriculture offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.