



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

42499 STERLING HIGHWAY
SOLDOTNA, ALASKA 99669
PHONE: (907) 260-4200
FAX: (907) 260-4205

May 31, 2010

Kachemak Emergency Services
P.O. Box 4849
Homer, AK 99603
Attn: Robert Cicciarella

Certified Mail: 7009 3410 0002 1298 9470

Dear Chief Cicciarella,

Congratulations, your fire department has been awarded a grant through the 2010 Volunteer Fire Assistance program. Your grant will total \$10,000.00 and is a 10% match. This means that you will have to spend a total of \$1,000.00 in local matching funds as a condition of your grant. The VFA grant check has been mailed to Penny Carroll at the Finance Division of the Kenai Borough for distribution of those funds to your department.

The 12 pairs of Hercules Hotshot Wildland Boots (\$3,600.00) that were listed on your application are unfortunately items not eligible for purchase under VFA grant dollars. The good news is that you will still be able to use that amount to select and purchase items that you had identified on your RFA application.

I have enclosed a copy of the VFA Guidelines sheet for your reference. If you have any questions or if you need additional information on documentation required to complete the grant process you can contact me at 260-4220. Please send me copies of the receipts for documentation purposes as soon as the purchases are completed so that I can keep current records. Documentation needs to be sent in prior to December 31, 2010 and earlier if possible.

Again, congratulations on being successful in receiving VFA grant funding. Through interagency cooperation and local community effort, we can significantly reduce the impacts of wildfire in Alaska. I look forward to working with you and the members of your department in the future.

Sincerely,

Howard J. Kent
Fire Management Officer
Kenai/Kodiak Area Office
42499 Sterling Highway
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-260-4220

Enclosure

"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans."

Volunteer Fire Assistance Criteria

- 1) Public Law 95-313, Sec. 7; requires a 50% - 50% matching share, up to a limit of \$22,500.00. However a limit of \$10,000.00 per fire department has been imposed by Forestry so that more fire departments will have the opportunity to participate. Forestry will also provide match of funds up to 90% with 10% of the total project cost matched by the fire department. ***Local matching funds must be available and documented when application is made. Please furnish the appropriate documentation of matching funds with your application. Failure to provide this documentation will be grounds for disqualification.***
- 2) VFA grant funding cannot be used for the following:
 - a. Repair, construction or purchase of buildings.
 - b. Land acquisition.
 - c. Pressurized waterlines and hydrants.
 - d. Emergency medical equipment.
 - e. Any equipment not fire related.
 - f. Normal operating expenses (salaries, utilities, fuel etc.)
 - g. Any single item costing \$4999.00 or more.
- 3) Applications will receive a higher rating if one or more of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Fire departments have a cooperating agreement with the Alaska Division of Forestry, the USDI-BLM Alaska Fire Service, or the USDA Forest Service to attack wildland fires within their service area.
 - b. Newly established (less than 12 months), State Fire Marshall approved fire departments.
 - c. Fire departments that have not previously received VFA funding.
 - d. Purchase of equipment especially used on wildland fires, such as portable pumps, fold-a-tanks, hose, communications equipment, etc.
 - e. Training (documented, either structural or wildland)
 - f. Documented match exceeds 10%.
- 4) For matching purposes \$1,000.00 worth of in-kind services may be used by the Fire Departments in lieu of copies of invoices and cancelled checks. In-kind services can be unpaid attendance at fire protection training courses and/or workshops, at the equivalent pay rate of EFF-3 or attendance at fire protection training courses and/or workshops at the employee's normal Fire Department pay rate, if the employee is a paid employee of the Department.

Documentation will consist of a roster of the course or workshop, title and brief description, date, employee's names in attendance and signature, hours and total equivalent of pay (at current EFF-3 pay rate). For 2009 the EFF 3 pay rate was \$13.58 per hour. The rate for 2010 has not been established yet but may be slightly higher than the 2009 rate