

**Washington State Department of Natural Resources**  
**Volunteer Fire Assistance**  
**2017 Phase I Grant Program**

## **Introduction**

The **Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA)** program is funded through the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS). The objective of the VFA program is to improve the capacity and capability of rural and volunteer fire protection districts that protect rural communities and play a substantial cooperative role in the suppression of wildland fires within or near federally managed lands. The Phase I grant program helps accomplish this by providing eligible Washington State fire districts/fire departments (districts) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other fire equipment at a 50% reduced cost through the DNR Fire Cache.

To participate districts must meet the eligibility requirements listed below. Eligible districts may apply by submitting an order through the DNR “Phase I Order” shopping cart (see submittal directions below). **The maximum order allowed is \$2,500. Orders will be filled as they are received until funding is depleted or April 28, 2017, whichever occurs first.**

Orders Prices listed in the “Phase I Order” shopping cart reflect a 50% price reduction, include sales tax, and are the cost to the district. VFA grant funds cover the remaining 50%. Districts may request to pick up orders at the DNR Fire Cache in Tumwater, WA or have the equipment shipped. The cost of shipping is the district’s responsibility and will be added to the order.

## **Eligibility**

Districts that meet the following requirements are eligible to apply for Phase I grants:

- Established under the laws of the state of Washington
- 70% volunteer firefighter membership or greater. As an example, for a fire district with a total of 30 firefighters (counting both paid and volunteer), 21 must be volunteers, and
- Provide service to:
  - a rural area or a rural community with a population of 10,000 or less, or
  - a community with a population greater than 10,000 that includes service to a rural community of 10,000 or less (funding must be used to benefit the rural community), and
- Have one of the following agreements currently in place with DNR:
  - Forest Land Response Agreement & Federal Grant Agreement, or
  - Fire District Assistance Agreement that includes “Attachment A - Assistance Grants”

## **Phase I Order Process**

- The maximum order allowed is \$2,500. Phase I orders will be accepted beginning March 6, 2017 through April 28, 2017 or until funding is depleted, whichever occurs first. Orders submitted after 5:00 PM on April 28, 2017 will not be considered for funding.
- Orders are submitted through the “Phase I Order” online shopping cart available on the DNR [Fire District Assistance](#) webpage. The shopping cart requires applicants to create an account prior to placing orders. After submitting an order through the shopping cart, applicants will receive an email confirming their orders.
- Information requested to “create an account” must be filled out completely, and will be used in determining eligibility.
- Orders will be awarded and filled as they are received by DNR up until the time funding is either depleted or the order time period ends, whichever occurs first. It is recommended that districts submit orders as soon as possible once the grant period opens on March 6, 2017.
- A district may submit multiple orders as long as the cumulative total of all orders does not exceed \$2,500. However, each order will be filled as it is received, independent of previous orders by the district.

## **Award Notice & Order Delivery**

- Email confirmation of your order serves as the notice of grant award. DNR reserves the right not to fund an order if it is determined that funding is no longer available, or that a district does not meet eligibility requirements, or if the order by itself, or combined with previous orders from the same district exceeds \$2,500.
- Orders are delivered typically within 4-6 weeks
- Questions regarding the grant program and award process should be directed to DNR Fire District Assistance (360-902-1300).
- Questions specific to the available equipment in the shopping cart and order status should be directed to the DNR Fire Cache (360-586-0361).