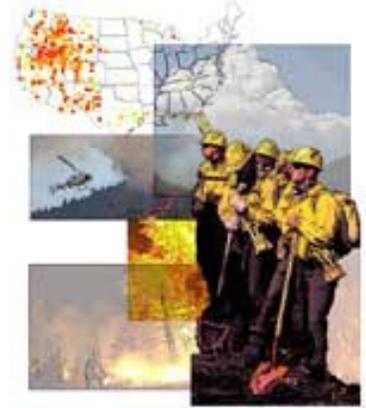




# The National Fire Plan

## FY 2001 Programs in Virginia



### Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. In the 13 southern States, the Plan will serve to strengthen the firefighting organization, expand hazardous fuel reduction and management activities, and enhance economic development opportunities in rural communities.

In 2000, 1,083 fires burned 10,945 acres and damaged or destroyed 178 homes and structures in Virginia. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to Virginia include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & Private Land Fire Assist..	
3,142	913	0	313	285	807	116	20	146	5,742

### Firefighting Resources

*Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.*

- Eight permanent positions in the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest fire organization are being filled in FY 2001, to build the most efficient level of organizational readiness.
- To support the expanded organization, equipment is being purchased and added to the fleet.
- A capital investment of \$912,500 is being made in facilities for the hot shot crew in Augusta Springs, VA.
- In addition, through the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP), excess Federal property is loaned to state forestry agencies and their cooperators for wildland and rural community fire protection. The total value of FEPP inventory in Virginia is about \$2 million.

### Hazardous Fuel Reduction

*Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.*

- 3,623 acres of hazardous fuel reduction treatments have been accomplished to date and documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- An additional 8,900 acres of planning and NEPA work to prepare for FY 2002 fuel reduction

treatments is also underway in FY 2001.

## Community Assistance

*Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.*

- State Fire Assistance provides \$807,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$486,000 in base funding. The program supports a statewide Riskwise Assessment Project, to locate and rate all woodland home communities equal to 10 units or larger in size. The IMAX fire movie will be used as a training tool in rural communities.
- Volunteer Fire Assistance provides \$116,000 through the National Fire Plan, in addition to \$77,000 in base funding, for grants to address the needs of Virginia's 543 rural volunteer fire departments, for training, equipment, protective materials, and supplies. In 2000, 74 rural volunteer fire departments received grants through the program.
- Economic Action Program focuses on high fire risk areas mostly in the wildland-urban interface areas, where conventional prescribed burning is not feasible. The program will help support a region-wide assessment of fuel loads and burned areas, to guide planning of longer-range strategies to reduce fuel loads and minimize risks to people and property in Virginia.
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance provides support to communities in burned and impacted areas. Grants support community planning, pilot projects and activities to mitigate impacts of past fires, reduce the risks of and prepare for future fires, and explore economic opportunities that arise from the National Fire Plan, such as establishment of dry hydrants, stewardship planning and fuel management, hazard mitigation, and utilization of wood products from removed fuels.

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