SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

EMERGENCY GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Texas Forest Service is pleased to announce the availability of special emergency grants available through the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program (HB 2604). The program will provide special grants to volunteer fire departments located in counties recently designated as under threat of extreme fire hazard by proclamation of the Governor. Applications are now being accepted.

WHAT IT IS...
The Texas Forest Service will award emergency grants to eligible volunteer fire departments within counties named in the recent wildfire threat proclamation issued by the Governor. The program will reimburse eligible volunteer fire departments for fire equipment, repairs to fire equipment, and for wildland PPE. The purpose of emergency grants is to help volunteer fire departments return to operational status and firefighting capability and to improve firefighter safety during the threat period.

WHAT IS ELIGIBLE...
Any purchase or planned purchase of critical wildland fire equipment, repairs to fire equipment used for wildland fire suppression, or wildland PPE occurring since January 29, 2008. Note: Certain items may not be eligible. Please check with the Texas Forest Service in advance.

HOW MUCH WILL THE GRANT PAY...
The program will reimburse 75% of the actual cost of replacing or repairing fire equipment up to a maximum of $7,500. The program will reimburse 90% of the actual cost of wildland PPE not to exceed $281 per set.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE...

HOW TO APPLY...
Complete an Application For Rural Fire Defense Assistance (Form FO-400) and return to the Texas Forest Service in College Station. Write the words “Emergency Grant” across the top of the first page of the form. Please include a completed IRS Form W-9 with the application.
Applications will be received until the wildfire threat is declared to have ended.

Information regarding HB 2604 Emergency Grants may be acquired by contacting the Texas Forest Service:

Lufkin                  (936) 639-8100             ATTN: Ruth Ann Smith, Teresa Fernandez

2-18-2008