

**TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE PROGRAM ELEMENTS AND COST-SHARE RATES**  
**PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

**3.2 TRAINING TUITION GRANT GUIDELINES FOR FIREFIGHTER TRAINING**

The program provides grants for tuition for firefighters in Texas to attend initial and recurrent training.

Tuition grants under this program are subject to the following standards.

**3.21 Eligibility**

Only firefighters from departments qualifying for assistance under the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program are eligible.

**3.22 Approved Courses**

Courses certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas, the Texas Fire Chief's Association, and/or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group are eligible. Courses leading to the following firefighter certifications and credentials are eligible:

- *Structural Firefighting*
- *Wildland Firefighting*
- *Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting*
- *Marine Fire Fighting*
- *Industrial Fire Fighting*
- *Rescue*
- *Driver/Operator*
- *Fire Inspector*
- *Fire Instructor*
- *Fire Investigator*
- *Wildland Urban Interface*
- *Fire Service Officer*
- *First Responder/Emergency Care Attendant (ECA)*
- *Hazardous Materials Technician*
- *Incident Command System*
- *Public Fire Educator*
- *Texas Fire Chiefs Academy*

Other courses in addition to those shown above may also be eligible. Most fire courses offered by the TEEX ESTI are eligible, with some exceptions. Training leading to the EMT or Paramedic credential is not eligible. Training leading to a law enforcement certification is not eligible. Non-fire related courses are not eligible.

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NWCG courses, other than S-130 and S-190, must be taught by an NWCG member agency. NWCG courses not offered or sanctioned by an NWCG member agency are not eligible for grant assistance.

**All training courses must be taught within the State of Texas.**

**3.23 Approved Schools**

Most fire schools administered or facilitated by the Texas Engineering Extension Service Emergency Services Training Institute (ESTI) are approved, which includes the Fireman's Training School at Texas A&M University and all TEEX Area schools. Most programs administered by state agencies and state universities are approved, provided they are certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Most regional schools are approved, provided the curriculum is certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection, the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, or the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Other training schools and courses not leading to a certification by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, Texas Commission on Fire Protection, or qualifications under the National Wildfire Coordinating Group "Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide" will not be approved. If a course is not conducted by a state agency or university, it must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Registration fees for certain statewide conferences are eligible provided they are approved in advance by the Texas Forest Service.

**3.24 Instructors and Training Facilities**

Training must be conducted by a lead instructor holding the Texas Instructor I credential or higher.

NWCG training must be conducted by a qualified lead instructor holding qualifications as required by the NWCG Field Manager's Course Guide, PMS 901-1.

Training fields, classrooms, and training facilities should be certified by the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

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**3.25 Other Approved Training**

The Program provides grant funds for the establishment of a fire publications and video training library. All publications and videos should be housed at a location accessible to all department members.

All publications and videos should be ordered through the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association, however, purchase through other providers is acceptable.

Grants are available for the purchase of electronic projectors as an item of Training Equipment. The maximum grant assistance is 75% of the actual cost not to exceed \$1000 in grant assistance.

The Program provides reimbursement grants for registration fees for attendance at the following conferences:

Industrial Fire World Annual Conference  
State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas Annual Conference  
Texas Association of Fire Educators Annual Conference  
Texas Fire Chiefs Association Annual Conference

**3.26 Limitations**

Grant assistance is not available for reimbursement of transportation, meals, or lodging expense. However, lodging and meal card expenses at the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School may be eligible for reimbursement, provided the charges are invoiced by TEEX. Federal VFA grant funds will be used to fund this lodging and meal card component. Applicants must be NIMS compliant in order to qualify for federal VFA funds and must meet other federal eligibility requirements for federal VFA and NFP funds.

Electronic projectors, DVD players, computers, or satellite-based subscription services are not eligible grant items under the Training Library category.

Grants for Training Equipment cover only the purchase of electronic projectors. They do not provide reimbursement for the purchase of computers, external DVD players, or projection screens.

Training tuition grants are provided up to a maximum of \$85 per day, not to exceed \$595 per trainee per school.

Training tuition grants are limited to a maximum of \$6,000 per department per school, except that the maximum allowable grant for the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School is \$5,950.

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The maximum amount of Training Tuition grant assistance a department may receive in a fiscal year (September through August) is \$12,000.

Written application for a Training Tuition grant must be received by the Texas A&M Forest Service before the course start-date. An application received on or after the course start-date is not eligible for grant assistance.

**3.27 Training Tuition Payments**

Grant payments for Training Tuition to the TEEX Spring Fire School and the TEEX Municipal Fire School may be made directly to TEEX on behalf of the grant recipient. Tuition and related expenses must be listed on an itemized master invoice provided by TEEX. Grant reimbursement payments for tuition at all other schools will be made directly to the grant recipient.

Dorm lodging and meal card expenses at the TEEX Summer Municipal Fire School may be eligible for reimbursement, provided the charges are invoiced by TEEX, and provided the FD applicant is NIMS Compliant. Federal VFA grant funds may be used to fund this lodging and meal card component. The applicant must also meet the eligibility requirements for federal VFA and NFP funds.

Grant payments for Training Tuition to the Capital Area Interagency Wildfire and Incident Management Academy may be paid directly to the Texas A&M Forest Service on behalf of the grant recipient.