

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 including on-line courses. 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.

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.

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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 TEEEX Spring and Summer Schools at Texas A&M University and all TEEEX 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, the Texas Fire Chiefs 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.

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.

3.25 Other Approved Training

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
Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts (SAFE-D) Conference

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3.26 Limitations

Grant assistance is not available for reimbursement of transportation, meals, or lodging expense. However, Texas A&M Forest Service utilizes federal funds for dorm lodging and meal card grants at the TEEX – Municipal Fire School. In order to be considered for federal funds, applicants must meet **all** of the following federal requirements.

- 1) Department must serve a rural area or rural community with a population of 10,000 or less.
- 2) Submit a DUNS number
- 3) Adopt NIMS through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM).

For more information on:

- **NIMS Adoption** – How do I adopt NIMS?
<http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=17356>
- **DUNS Number** – Assignment is free, call 1-866-705-5711 or visit
<http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform/>

Note: In order for a DUNS number to be valid for federal funding, the number must be registered **annually** on the System for Award Management (SAM). Please visit <https://www.sam.gov> for more information.

Training Tuition grants are provided up to a maximum of \$125 per day, not to exceed \$625 per trainee per school.

The maximum amount of Training Tuition grant assistance a department may receive in a fiscal year (September through August) is \$12,500.

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.

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