



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Forestry

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October 16, 2019

Dear Volunteer Fire Department:

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program provides assistance in training, supplies, equipment purchases, and prevention activities on a cost share basis. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program is available from the USDA Forest Service through the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry. The VFA program may be used for both wildland and structure protection needs. The assistance is provided to increase firefighter safety, improve the firefighting capabilities of rural volunteer fire departments, and enhance protection in the urban-wildland interface.

The amount available to apply for is capped at \$7,500.00. The 2020 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program application period will be open from November 1, 2019 – January 31, 2020.

VFA applications will only be accepted through the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry's Online Line Application System (OLAS) <https://dnr.alaska.gov/olas/>.

If, as a fire department, you have already registered equipment in OLAS, use your same username and password to access the 2020 VFA Grant Application. If you are new to using OLAS, please register. To register, chose 'Register Now!' on menu bar at top of page. Please have your department's FDID number on hand as it is needed to complete the registration process. If you do not know the department's FDID it can be found here (second column): https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/c8f6da74-b94d-49f0-80e5-724044ee92a6/2019Directory3_20_19.pdf

Volunteer Fire Departments will also need to know their SOA vendor number to apply. If you do not know your department's SOA vendor number or need one, you may look it up and /or apply for one here:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/iris/vendor.html>

The Division of Forestry cannot assist you with SOA vendor number issues or the SOA vendor application process. If you need assistance call 907-465-5555, Option 1 or email: doa.dof.vendor.helpdesk@alaska.gov.

Once you have registered in OLAS, login and go to the menu bar at the top of the page and click 'Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program', from there you

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will be able to apply, view and/or print and sign all relevant documents.

While there, review the 2020 VFA Grant Manual which includes; all VFA criteria, a VFA PowerPoint Presentation etc.

When submitting your 2020 application, be sure to enter the correct SOA vendor number, as awards are issued to a VFD under their SOA vendor number. (Not knowing or entering an incorrect SOA Vendor number will cause significant delays in receiving any awarded VFA funding.)

If received, a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant is an award of Federal financial assistance (CFDA # 10.664) and is subject to the OMB guidance in subparts A through F of 2 CFR Part 200 as adopted and supplemented by USDA in 2 CFR Part 400. Adoption by USDA of the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 400 gives regulatory effect to the OMB guidance in 2 CFR 200 where full text may be found. Electronic copies of the CFRs can be obtained at the following internet site: www.ecfr.gov.

Sincerely,

Arlene Weber-Sword
Fire Staff Officer