



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

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October 24, 2018

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 2019 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Grant Program application period will be open from November 1, 2018 – January 31, 2019.

This grant cycle 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 user name and password to access the 2019 VFA Grant Application. If you are a new to using OLAS, please register. To register, chose 'Register Now!' on menu bar at top of page. Please have your departments FDID on hand as you will need it to complete the registration process. If you do not know the department's FDID it can be found here (second column): <http://www.dps.alaska.gov/Fire/FDRegistration>

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>

Once you have registered, login in and go to the menu bar at the top of the page and click 'Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program', from there you will be able to view and/or print all relevant documents such as the 2019 VFA Grant Manual, a VFA PowerPoint Presentation etc. and fill out the application. As part of the application process, VFDs are required to sign the standard federal forms, provide matching share documentation in pdf file format, scan and upload the documents in order for the application to be complete.

If received, a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant is an award of Federal financial assistance (CFDA # 10.664) and is subject to USDA 7 CFR 2016, (A-102) Uniform Requirements, 2 CFR 225 Cost Principles, and OMB Circular A-133 as implemented by USDA Regulation 7 CFR 3052. All Federal and Recipient matching/cost share contributions are subject to all relevant Circulars and Code of Federal Regulations.

Sincerely,

Arlene Weber-Sword
Fire Staff Officer