



Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Forest Resources
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program
Application 2026

IDNR USE ONLY

(*) indicates a required field

SECTION 1 - APPLICANT INFORMATION		
Applicant (FD) Name (*)	Tax ID number (9 digits) (*)	
Description of the Applicant (*)		
Address (*)	City, State, Zip (*)	County (*)
Daytime Telephone(*) : (cell if station is not manned)		
Fax (*)		
E-Mail (*):		
Applicant Representative (*):		Title:
Applicant Signature (*):		
Date:		
Other Contact Person (<i>Only if different from Applicant Representative</i>) Must be available during business hours.		
Name:		Title:
Daytime Telephone (*):		
E-Mail:		

SECTION 2 - ELIGIBILITY

1. Is 100% of the total project cost available at the time of application?

YES ☐

NO ☐

If the answer is NO, the applicant is not eligible for funding.

2. Does your Fire agency serve a rural area?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Does your Fire agency serve a community with a population under 10,000? YES ☐

NO ☐

What is the population of the community served? _____

(From the most recent Census)

(See Section I for eligibility requirements)

3. Does your Fire agency have a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on wildfire control with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources? YES ☐ NO ☐

(A signed MOU is required for funding consideration, form included in this package). A MOU older than 3 years must be renewed. (See page vii) (Attach signed copy)

4. Provide a map of your protection area, and include any areas within the boundaries that are not under your protection.

If project includes purchase and installation of a dry hydrant, include a satellite map (such as Google Earth) with GPS coordinates and elevation drawings for the placement of the hydrant. If dry hydrant will be on Private Property attach signed 30 year easement.

SECTION 3 - EVALUATION CRITERIA

5. Is wildland fire training, PPE or equipment being purchased? (Eligible items include National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training, wildland PPE, wildland hand tools, chainsaws, drip torches, backpack blowers, slip in units, brush trucks, and GPS units.

6.a. Does your department have National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) trained and active members? ☐ Yes ☐ No
S130 & S190, persons trained _____? (i.e. trained by IDNR Forestry, IFSI, or FWS)

S290 _____?

S131 _____?

S211 _____?

S212 _____?

S230 _____?

S231 _____?

S234 _____?

Other NWCG Classes _____?

6.b. Do you have members that hold a Red Card: ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, list names.

7. Does your Fire agency protect any Natural Resource public lands or public own facilities, such as State Parks or Forests, Forest Preserve Districts, National Forest lands, County or Township Parks, State or Federal Lodges?

YES ☐ NO ☐ If YES, please list. (BE SPECIFIC)

EXAMPLE: Starved Rock State Park (Lodge, Maintenance Building, Site Superintendent Residence, 625 acres)

Name of Facility: _____ Acres Protected: _____

Name of Facility: _____ Acres Protected: _____

Name of Facility: _____ Acres Protected: _____

Name of Facility: _____ Acres Protected: _____

(For more facilities, use additional sheets if necessary)

Highway right-of-ways, City Buildings or City Parks, Community Centers, Schools, Churches, Cemeteries and/or Post Offices and Mutual Aid assistance are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for consideration.

<p>8. What is your approximate annual budget? \$_____</p> <p>List the source (s) of your income with its approximate percentage of your total budget.</p> <p>a. _____ % b. _____ %</p> <p>c. _____ % d. _____ %</p>
<p>9. What is your present rating from the Insurance Services Office? (ISO)</p> <p>City: _____ Rural: _____</p>
<p>10. Does your Fire agency use the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) to report wildfires to the Illinois State Fire Marshal's office? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Did your Fire agency report wildland fires to the Department of Natural Resources in 2025 YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> <p>IDNR fire reporting website. https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ef3e0196eeea4661b86a0b9f384ddf80?open=menu</p> <p><u>If the wildfires have already been</u> reported to IDNR, you will receive credit for each report.</p>
<p>11. In 2025 did your Fire agency suffer a loss (not covered by insurance) of 50% or more of the asset value, not including real estate value, of the fire agency's equipment? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> <p><i>If yes, attach a copy of the formal report documenting the equipment loss.</i></p>
<p>12. Do you have a completed GATA and a FY2026 Internal Control Questionnaire (ICQ) Submitted?</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>13. Will this project increase the water supply to your protection area? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Tankers, tenders, dry hydrants and cisterns are eligible, and other projects will be considered. Permanent installations of dry hydrants or cisterns on private property require written and signed 30 year easements (and must be included with the application) along with all-weather access. Survey and legal fee estimates can be included in your request and must be submitted with the reimbursement request.</p>
<p>14a. Does the proposed project involve the conversion of Federal Excess Property? YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> <p><i>If yes, please include the serial number and equipment description in Section 4 - Project Description.</i></p> <p>14b. List and Identify FEPP/FFP equipment to be altered or modified</p> <p>Serial Number:_____ Equipment Description:_____</p> <p>Serial Number:_____ Equipment Description:_____</p>
<p>15. Does your community have a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> *Attach with Application*</p> <p>Name of Plan:_____ County/Area Covered by Plan_____</p> <p>Name of Plan:_____ County/Area Covered by Plan_____</p>

[you may attach
additional documentation]

Provide a map of the project location with GPS coordinates and elevation drawings if purchase and installation of a dry hydrant is requested. If Hydrant will be placed on private property include a 30 year signed easement with the application.

Click inside the box to insert map into document.

	IDNR FUNDING <i>[Up to 50% of total project cost or 10,000. Whichever is less]</i>	DEPARTMENT FUNDING	TOTAL PROJECT COST
PROJECT FUNDING	\$	\$	\$

SECTION 6 - DETAILED PROJECT BUDGET
(Required for all applications.)

*Attached Itemization is fine**

PERSONNEL

Additional Documents may be attached on back*

Name or Position Title	Hourly Rate	Hours	Total

TRAVEL

Position/Description	Item Rate	Quantity	Total

EQUIPMENT

Description	Price/Item	Quantity	Total

MATERIALS/SUPPLIES

Description	Price/Item	Quantity	Total

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Description	Total

OTHER

Description: (i.e. legal description; survey fees)	Total

TOTAL COST OF PROJECT

\$

**Scan and email application
and attachments (all pages)
to: :**

DNR.VFA@illinois.gov

**ONLY ELECTRONIC
APPLICATIONS (EMAIL)
WILL BE ACCEPTED**

Questions - Contact:

Adrian.Walker2@illinois.gov

Matthew.Bernhardt@illinois.gov

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; (217) 782-2662; TTY (217) 782-9175.



Fire Control MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, hereafter referred to as the “Department”, and the _____, hereafter referred to as the “Fire Agency”. The purpose of this MOU is to reduce the effects of uncontrolled wildfires upon the forest, wildlife habitat and soil and water resources of the State. **The territory covered by this agreement is defined per the attached map.**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Provide training to Fire Agency personnel in the areas of fire prevention, suppression and damage appraisal.
2. Provide guidance and assistance in selecting and utilizing personnel protective equipment (PPE), tools, and other necessary equipment to fight wildland fires. As available, loan appropriate tools and equipment to the Fire Agency.
3. Provide available resources to assist in suppression efforts for fires on property adjacent to Department owned lands within the Fire Agency’s territory. As available, dispatch help to suppress fires on private lands.
4. Provide the Fire Agency fire prevention materials, (e.g. Smokey Bear costume, literature etc).

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRE AGENCY

1. Furnish proper storage and maintenance of equipment loaned by the Department and maintain and make available all pertinent records.
2. Provide fire protection on Department owned lands within or adjacent to the Fire Agency territory.
3. Take action on wildland fires. File reports to the Department for wildfires for which action was taken.

This memorandum may be terminated by mutual agreement in writing with 60 days notice. Unless otherwise stated, there will be no charge by either the Department of Natural Resources or the Fire Agency for services rendered under this MOU.

Fire Agency

Fire Agency Representative

Date

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Cell Phone

e-mail address

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

IDNR Forester

Date

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone

Cell Phone

e-mail address

State Forester

Date

IDNR Forest Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
PH: 217/785-8774