



## **Fire Protection Specialist Added to Missouri Forestry Division 2004**

A National Fire Plan grant has brought much-needed assistance to the fire departments in southwest Missouri. The grant funded a Fire Protection Specialist position within the Missouri Forestry Division to assist fire departments in all facets of service from ISO (Insurance Service Office) ratings to installations and training on rural water sources.

The Fire Protection Specialist will work with fire departments in the 15-county area of southwest Missouri RC&D (Resource, Conservation, and Development) and the state of Missouri to reduce the threat of wildfire within communities through water source installations and educating homeowners on wildfire prevention.

Besides becoming familiar with fire departments' master fire plans, helping them set goals toward lower ISO ratings, and providing training education on ISO rating reduction and master fire planning, the specialist's duties will include providing training education (working with MUFRTI- Missouri University Fire and Rescue Training Institute) on fire equipment needs, resources, and maintenance.

The specialist will also help with fire training resources, reports and documentation, hydrant installation, and wildland/urban interface issues. The Fire Protection Specialist also coordinates efforts among rural departments and the Division of Fire Safety, the Statewide Mutual Aid Coordinator, and Regional Hazardous Materials Teams.

The Fire Protection Specialist provides direct services to rural fire departments and communities. Funding from this grant has allowed the Division of Forestry to deliver training to communities to protect themselves from wildfires near their homes, provide technical and financial assistance to rural fire departments to install 400 dry hydrants, and put the Firewise Communities program into action in Missouri.



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