

Federal Funding Distributed to Local Volunteer Fire Departments Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Fire Plan - Firefighting

Rocky Mountain National Park distributed \$25,900 in federal funding to assist four local volunteer fire departments. Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) received \$11,000, Estes Park VFD was awarded \$7000, Grand Lake VFD accepted \$4,400 and Allenspark VFD obtained \$3,500 in funding.

As part of the National Fire Plan, the Rural Fire Assistance program is designed to increase firefighter safety, enhance the fire protection capabilities of rural fire departments and assist surrounding communities. Nearly \$115,000 of Rural Fire Assistance funding has been distributed locally since the program was enacted four years ago.



According to Glen Haven Fire Chief Tom Housewright, "This program will allow us to outfit our new brush truck with a compressed air foam unit. Foam lasts longer and is much more effective than just using water during fire suppression efforts." Estes Park purchased some hose and other water/foam handling equipment, while Grand Lake and Allenspark acquired additional personal protective equipment and tools.

"It has turned out to be a very mild fire season for us, but it sure wasn't looking that way earlier this spring when the Picnic Rock Fire was burning in Larimer County during March. Providing financial assistance to purchase this equipment is a good investment and will contribute to our local fire departments being better prepared for when we do have increased fire activity in this area," said Superintendent Vaughn Baker.

The Rural Fire Assistance program is operated on a cost-share basis. Fire departments serving a community with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants are eligible for funding and must contribute a 10 percent share of the grant total, including in-kind labor. Fire departments may use the funding to conduct training and purchase wildland fire equipment and supplies.

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