



National Fire Plan

Managing the Impact of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment

New York- Responding to Adirondack Wildfires

■ The Challenge

The Summer of 2002 was one of the most active wildland fire seasons in New York's Adirondack Mountains since the early 1960s. During July, August and September, State Forest Rangers, Assistant Forest Rangers, and volunteers fought 134 fires in the Adirondack Park, including 41 that were caused by lightning strikes on remote forested mountaintops. The combination of dry conditions, the large number of fires, and their remote locations presented a major fire suppression challenge.

■ The Solution

Additional funding from the State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs the last two years has helped New York handle the higher than normal number of fires in the Adirondacks. The State focused its additional funding in the following areas:

- Training for Assistant Forest Rangers and volunteers
- Equipment and supplies
- Personal protective equipment
- Prevention programs
- Communication equipment
- Dry hydrant installations
- Wildland firefighting tools, water handling equipment and supplies

■ Resulting Benefits

- Began a fire prevention program in conjunction with "Leave No Trace", concentrating on reducing wildland fires caused by campfires.
- Trained additional wildland firefighters, including Assistant Forest Rangers, correction inmates, and volunteers.
- Increased firefighter safety because fire resistant clothing is available for both in and out of state use.
- Provided fire resistant jump suits to the New York State Department of Corrections for use by inmate crews.



Fire equipment purchased with NFP Funds

- Encouraged volunteer fire departments to purchase nomex clothing with their VFA grants. This clothing is better suited to wildland firefighting than turnout gear.
- Reached out to more volunteer fire departments, increasing cooperation with these partners.
- Improved cooperation with the Department of Corrections by providing jump suits and joint firefighting.

■ Sharing Success

- Better-trained and equipped firefighters will be available to other states and Canadian provinces in the event of catastrophic wildfires.
- "Leave No Trace" fire prevention program concept shared with Northeast Forest Fire Compact member States.
- Dry Hydrant technology shared with local VFDs and communities, enhancing rural water delivery.

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