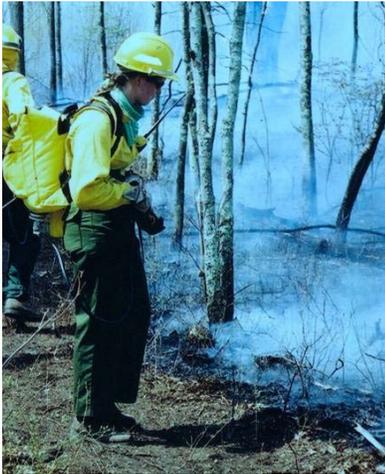


Rural Fire Protection Program Dry-hydrant Project



WHAT IS A DRY HYDRANT?

A dry hydrant is a non-pressurized pipe system permanently installed in existing lakes, ponds and streams that provides a suction supply of water to a fire department tank truck.



Background

RIDEM's Division of Forest Environment (RIDFE) and the RI Resource Conservation & Development Council (RI RC&D) have helped various Fire Departments obtain permitting assistance for dry hydrants and funding assistance for installation and materials. RI RC&D can provide assistance in the form of helping to identify wetlands, locate appropriate sites for dry hydrants, prepare site plans and design details, and provide a listing of necessary materials.

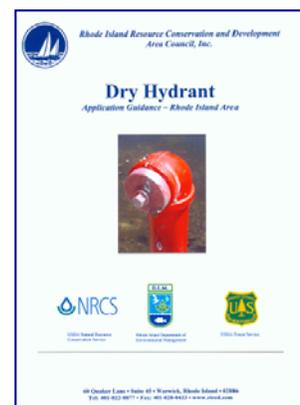
Why do Communities Need a Dry Hydrant?

In rural areas, a lack of water mains and pressurized fire hydrants can sometimes impair a fire department's ability to do its job quickly and efficiently. The success of a fire department's operation hinges on the distance a truck must travel to fill-up and return to the fire. In many cases these fill-up points are often long distances from the fire and the firefighters are unable to maintain an uninterrupted water source at the scene.

The installation of a non-pressurized pipe system into local water sources provides a ready means of supplying water to fire engines. In areas without water mains and domestic fire hydrants, the dry hydrant concept can provide a simple cost-effective solution to the need for access to water sources without delay.

New Guidance Manual Released

RI RC&D in collaboration with the RIDEM-Office of Water Resources and Division of Forest Environment are pleased to provide this publication as a reference and guidance tool to use as you consider an application for a dry hydrant. This publication includes the pertinent rules and regulations that apply to the dry hydrant design and installation process. Sample forms have been provided that can be used as a guide when filing the appropriate for the dry hydrant installation permits and grant applications. It is not intended, nor does it supersede, any State of Rhode Island DEM Rules or Regulations, but is presented as a guidance tool where only minimal impact to surrounding wetlands and the immediate soil area will be involved.



RHODE ISLAND - VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE (VFA) PROGRAM

Purpose

The purpose of the Volunteer Fire Assistance is to provide financial, technical and related assistance to State Foresters for organizing, training and equipping rural fire departments. This program authorizes expenditure of federal funding to prevent and suppress rural fires and enhancing protection capabilities by assisting rural communities with training, equipping and organizing fire service.

Eligibility

Fire departments in communities with populations of 10,000 or less are eligible for this grant. Distribution of available VFA funds is given out with an emphasis on the most needy. Funding provided through Volunteer Fire Assistance is focused to address wildland urban interface issues and needs for communities at risk in the wildland urban interface. Issues and needs include firefighter safety and training, enhancing community water supply and delivery capabilities, communications, and equipment needs.



Federal Role:

Volunteer Fire Assistance funding contributes to healthy sustainable, forests and sustainable economic development. High priority is placed on assisting rural communities having an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 9 or 10, as these communities usually have the poorest fire protection and in communities at risk within the wildland urban interface



State Role:

In Rhode Island the program is administered by the RIDEM-Division of Forest Environment through their Rural Community Fire Protection Program with the assistance of the Rhode Island Association of Fire Chiefs - Forest Fire Advisory Committee.

RI RC&D Role:

RI RC&D has a cooperative agreement with RIDFE for the purposes of conducting the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (VFA) in the State of Rhode Island. The purpose of the VFA is to assist the Division of Forest Environment in efforts to train and provide grant opportunities to rural fire companies.

PARTNERS



For More Information Contact:

Chris Modisette, RC&D Coordinator, USDA-NRCS, 60 Quaker Lane, Suite 45, Warwick, Rhode Island • 02886

Tel: 401-822-8877, Fax: 401-828-0433, Email: chris.modisette@ri.usda.gov; or

Catherine Sparks, Acting Chief, RIDEM-Division of Forest Environment, 1037 Hartford Pike, North Scituate, RI • 02857

Tel: 401-647-3367, Fax: 401-647-3590, Email: csparks@dem.state.ri.us