Support the State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance Programs

The State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs provide crucial financial assistance to states and local fire departments for wildland fire detection, mitigation, and suppression on all land ownerships.

In FY 2018, the SFA and VFA programs helped train 119,078 firefighters (97,210 state and 21,868 local) and provide them with $17 million worth of new or upgraded firefighting equipment.

Investments in state and local wildland firefighters make a difference. These men and women are the first to arrive at wildfires (regardless of who owns the land) nearly 80 percent of the time, and when properly equipped, can suppress them more efficiently and safely.

SFA and VFA helped states reduce the amount of dead and degraded trees that fuel wildfires during FY 2018 as well. SFA provided over $28 million in funding for hazardous fuels treatments, directly benefiting 1,065 communities in the wildland-urban interface (WUI).

SFA also provided roughly $3.7 million in assistance to conduct 3,882 community risk assessments and complete 2,873 fire management planning projects. The VFA program helped provide mitigation assistance to an additional 13,959 communities and helped to establish or expand 48 volunteer fire departments. Community preparedness and adequate suppression capacity are crucial to mitigating wildfire risk: VFA and SFA are critically important to both.

In FY21, the nation's state and territorial foresters recommend allocating $87 million to SFA and $19 million to VFA to ensure state and local firefighters have the capacity they need to reduce wildfire risk to people and property nationwide.

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