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Wildfire Suppression Kits Distributed to Volunteer Fire Departments through Rural Fire Program

LITTLE ROCK, AR – The Rural Fire Program, managed by the Arkansas Agriculture Department’s Forestry Commission (AFC), received \$237,000 from the United States Forest Service to purchase and distribute 79 Wildfire Suppression Kits to statewide volunteer fire departments in 2019. Kits feature equipment and gear necessary for the safe suppression of wildfires and will be delivered to selected volunteer fire departments through May.

Volunteer fire departments are the primary partner to AFC crews in wildfire response and suppression but often need the specialized equipment and gear necessary for safe wildfire suppression. Since 2014, more than 300 volunteer fire departments have received Wildfire Suppression Kits through the Rural Fire Program. Kits distributed this year include lightweight wildfire-resistant personal protective equipment, hand rakes, back-pack water pumps, and leaf blowers.

Volunteer fire departments interested in participating in the Wildfire Suppression Kit program submit applications that are scored according to specific criteria including fire district population, the size of the response area, wildfire equipment response needs, and other factors. The application period for the 2020 Wildfire Protection Kit program starts in September. Contact Kathryn Mahan-Hooten at Kathryn.Mahan@agriculture.arkansas.gov or (501) 679-3183 with questions or to be added to the Rural Fire Program email distribution list.

Fire departments receiving kits in 2019 are listed below by fire department and county:

Antioch/White	Corning/Clay	Johnsville/Bradley	Ouachita/Hot Spring
Appleton/Pope	Cross Roads/Hempstead	Joy/White	Oxford/Izard
Ash Flat/Fulton&Sharp	Cross Roads/Prairie	Lacey-Ladell/Drew	Pansy/Cleveland
Barton-Lexa/Phillips	Daisy/Pike	Lamar/Johnson	Paron/Saline
Bee Branch/Van Buren	Decatur/Benton	Luxora/Mississippi	Ravenden/Lawrence
Board Camp /Polk	Dierks/Howard	Lynn/Lawrence	Rover/Yell
Bradley/Lafayette	Driggs/Logan	Mammoth Spring/Fulton	Selma/Drew
Brinkley/Monroe	Dumas/Desha	Mandeville/Miller	South Phillips/Phillips
Buford/Baxter	East End/Saline	Marvell Rural/Phillips	Southeast White/White
Bussey Sharman/Columbia	Elaine/Phillips	Maysville/Benton	Southwest/Hot Spring
Butlerville/Lonoke	Elkins/Washington	McRae/White	Sparkman/Dallas
Butterfield/Crawford	Emerson/Columbia	Mulberry/Crawford	Swifton/Jackson
Calico Rock/Izard	Enola/Faulkner	Murfreesboro/Pike	Turtle Creek/Saline
Cecil Rural/Franklin	Fisher/Poinsett	New Blaine/Logan	Valley/Drew
Center Point/Howard	Fountain Lake/Garland	Norman/Montgomery	Watalula/Franklin
Center Ridge /Conway	Hackett /Sebastian	Norphlet/Union	Watson/Desha
Chickalah/Yell	Hardy/Sharp	Northside/Prairie	Williford/Sharp
Chidester/Ouachita	Hoxie/Lawrence	Oak Grove	Woodlawn/Cleveland
Chimes/Van Buren	Huttig/Union	Heights/Greene	Y Community-212/Cleveland
Collins-Cominto/Drew	Hwy 15 S/Jefferson	Oak Prairie/Prairie	Y City/Scott

