



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

## MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION

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[www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MS Forestry Commission Helps Rural Volunteer Fire Departments Purchase Equipment**

*JACKSON, Miss.* – The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is now accepting grant applications for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program from rural volunteer fire departments (VFDs) statewide. The Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, formerly known as the Rural Community Fire Protection Program, provides grant funds to eligible rural VFDs for the purchase of wildland firefighting equipment. The Mississippi Forestry Commission administers this program through an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service.

**Applications must be received by Wednesday, August 8, 2018.**

To download the application, visit: <http://bit.ly/VFAProgram>

“We value our volunteer firefighting partners. Their hard work and assistance are greatly appreciated as we work together protecting people’s lives, homes, and forestland,” said Charlie Morgan, State Forester. “Helping rural volunteer fire departments purchase the equipment they need through these federal grant funds benefits the communities they serve.”

In FY 2017, the MFC awarded 43 grants with a total value of \$184,500 to volunteer fire departments through the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program. The Mississippi Forestry Commission also issued 42 vehicles and 189 other pieces of wildland firefighting equipment with an estimated value of \$10.5 million to volunteer fire departments statewide through the [Firefighter Property Program](#), which is a federal excess property program that allows the purchase of government surplus vehicles for wildland and rural firefighting.

For more information on these programs, visit: [www.mfc.ms.gov/rural-fire-assistance](http://www.mfc.ms.gov/rural-fire-assistance)

To learn more about the Mississippi Forestry Commission, please visit our [website](#) and follow us on social media: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

View this release online: <http://bit.ly/VFARelease18>

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## About the Mississippi Forestry Commission

Established in 1926, the [Mississippi Forestry Commission](#) (MFC), protects the state's valuable forest resources from wildfire, manages approximately 480,000 acres of forested School Trust Land, and delivers quality forest management services and assistance to both rural and urban landowners. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory, and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy. The MFC looks forward to the continued privilege of caring for Mississippi's trees, forests, and natural resources. There are approximately 19.8 million forested acres in Mississippi. Mississippi's forestry and forest products industries have a \$12.79 billion economic impact and employ almost 70,000 people. Forestry consistently ranks as the state's second most valuable agricultural commodity, right behind the poultry industry.

