2012 Firewise Ohio Hazard Mitigation Grants

The Ohio Division of Forestry - Firewise Ohio Program has grant funds available to assist fire departments in enhancing wildfire prevention and preparedness within their communities and protection districts. These 50/50 match grants are structured such that the Division of Forestry provides funding for all cash expenditures and purchases, and the grant recipient fulfills their required share through in-kind service (work in lieu of cash). Upon closure of the grant, the recipient will have expended zero dollars from their agency budget.

Currently, in-kind service is valued at $21.36 per hour. In-kind service hours can be provided by anyone – qualifying service is not limited to fire department members. Firewise Ohio Hazard Mitigation Grants are limited to $8,000 in value, meaning total cash expenditure and reimbursement is limited to $4,000.00 per project grant. Grants will be administered throughout the year until allocated funds are exhausted. The grant recipient must make all financial expenditures initially and will be reimbursed for these purchases by ODNR Forestry upon project completion as specified in the grant cooperative agreement. Firewise Ohio dollars are available only for wildland fire prevention and preparedness activities.

Acceptable uses of grant funds:
1) Purchase of support equipment for hazardous wildfire fuels reduction projects (chainsaws, brush saws, leaf blowers, etc).
2) Purchase of wildfire prevention and safety displays
3) Purchase of support equipment for educational projects (computer projectors, screens, approved promotional items)
4) Funding for community wildfire awareness or educational events.
5) Purchase of support equipment for community hazard assessment and mapping (GPS units, GIS software, etc).
6) Other prevention and preparedness projects/equipment as approved.

Non-acceptable uses of grant funds:
1) Purchase of fire hose or other wildland fire suppression equipment.
2) Purchase of Nomex gear or other PPE.
3) Purchase or improvement of fire apparatus.
4) Capital improvements.

To be eligible for Firewise Ohio Hazard Mitigation Grants, departments must submit a well prepared, written proposal for grant dollars to the Ohio Division of Forestry – applications are available upon request (contact information below). Requirements include a detailed project description, purpose of the project, timeline, written equipment quotes, and budget. The hazard mitigation grant project must be confirmed as complete prior to reimbursement of the fire department. Documentation of in-kind match project hours must be provided prior to reimbursement of the fire department. This documentation must be completed on the Firewise Grant In-Kind Service Tracking Log. Receipts for all equipment, tools, and other budgeted purchases must be provided prior to reimbursement of the fire department. Currently, Firewise Grants are administered on a rolling timeline.

This program is an effort to promote wildland fire prevention, wildfire hazard mitigation, and Firewise principles, throughout Ohio. Firewise Ohio Hazard Mitigation Grants are available to fire departments statewide. Please contact the Ohio Division of Forestry with any questions.

Aaron Kloss, Firewise Coordinator
Ohio Division of Forestry
2045 Morse Road, H-1
Columbus, OH 43229
614-265-6896
877-247-8733 – toll free
www.ohiodnr.com/forestry