



Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
170 Lower Sumner Hill Road, Sumner, ME 04292
(802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com | www.vacd.org

November 15, 2021



Re: **Request for Town Appropriation, Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program**

Dear Board of Selectpersons, Town Clerks and Auditors:

On behalf of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force, I am writing to request your support of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Program, formerly called the Dry Hydrant Grant Program. The RFP program helps Vermont communities protect lives, property, and natural resources by enhancing fire suppression resources. Program Manager and Engineering Technician Troy Dare helps local fire departments identify appropriate sites for dry hydrants and other rural water supply systems, design installations, and find financial support to support the costs of construction. During the 23+ years of the program, almost **1200 grants** totaling over **\$2.6 million** have been provided to Vermont towns for installation of new rural fire protection systems, as well as for replacements and repairs.

The Rural Fire Protection Program is managed by the Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD). VACD is the membership association of Vermont's fourteen Natural Resources Conservations Districts, whose mission is to work with landowners and communities to protect natural resources and support the working landscape throughout the state.

We have made several adjustments to the Rural Fire Protection Grant Program, including changing the name from Dry Hydrant Grant Program to Rural Fire Protection Program to better reflect the diverse range of projects we support. We have increased the maximum grant award amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000 per project. New rural fire protection systems, along with repair, replacement, relocation, upgrades of existing systems, and drafting site development, are eligible for grant funding on an ongoing basis. And we now consider applications from Vermont towns and fire departments on a revolving basis throughout the year rather than just once a year.

The annual expense of the Rural Fire Protection Program in FY 2021 was **\$193,930**, of which **\$92,909** was paid in grants to Vermont communities for construction costs. The remaining budget covered site assessments, project design and program oversight. Most of our funding comes from the Vermont Department of Public Safety through annual appropriations by the Vermont Legislature. In addition, the program receives support from the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Unfortunately, these grants do not completely cover the costs of the program. Therefore,

12/9/21

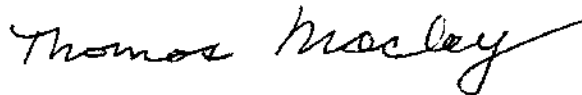
we are respectfully requesting that you include a \$100 appropriation in your town budget to support the Rural Fire Protection Program. Last year, we received over **\$11,000** in town appropriations from over **100** towns, with contributions still coming in. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

215 Vermont communities have benefitted from the Rural Fire Protection program. Our goal is to extend this support to all Vermont towns and continue to assist local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources, thereby improving the safety and welfare of Vermont communities.

Enclosed please find a summary report for the Rural Water Supply Grant Program, as well as an invoice and W-9 from VACD in case they are required. VACD's tax form 990 is also available upon request. Please feel free to contact me, Troy Dare, or Jill Arace, Executive Director of VACD, with any questions you may have. Our contact information is provided below. If you would like to receive this appropriation request by mail instead of by email, please contact Troy Dare.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Maclay, Chair
Rural Fire Protection Task Force
(802) 426-3265 | 83creamervst@fairpoint.net

Troy Dare, Program Manager & contact person Town Appropriation business
Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program
(802) 828-4582 | dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

Jill Arace, Executive Director
Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
(802) 496-5162 | jill.arace@vacd.org

Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:

Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield VFD
Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone
Walter Bothfeld, Jr., Cabot VFD
Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety
Christine Kaiser, Stowe VT
Lars Lund, VT Forest Parks & Recreation

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts

Rural Fire Protection Program

FY 2021 Financial Report (7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021)

Income

Town Appropriations/Donations	11,010
VT Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety	139,713
VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation (US Forest Service)	21,590
VACD	12,782
Sale of Dry Hydrant Spare Parts	8,835

Total Income 193,930

Expense

Personnel	67,632
Travel	4,802
Office and Services	23,783
Dry Hydrant Spare Parts	4,804
Rural Fire Protection Grants to Towns & Fire Departments	92,909

Total Expense 193,930

Net Income 0



Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force

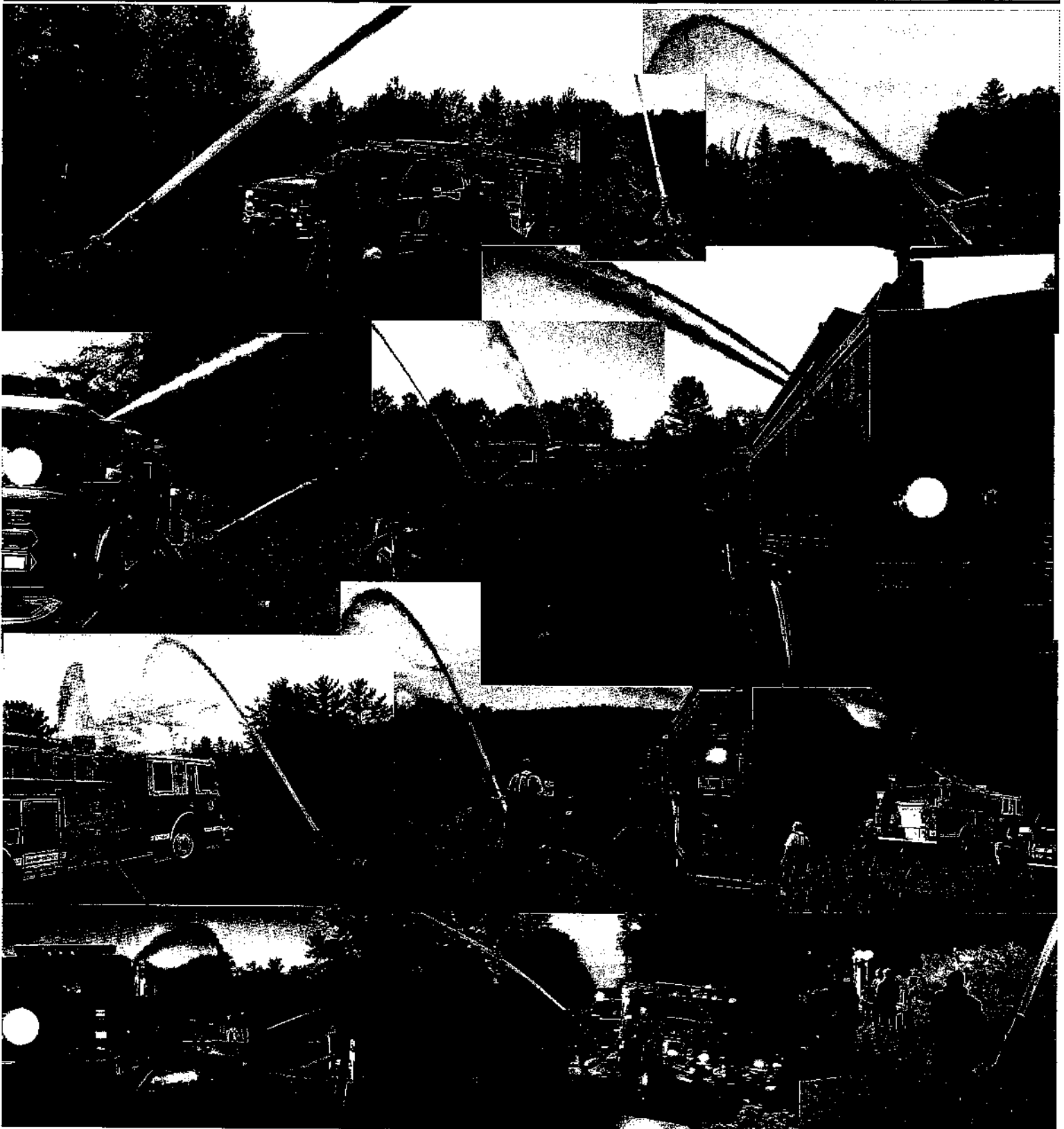
1998-2021 Rural Fire Protection Grant Program

Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)
Box 566, Waitsfield, VT 05673-0566 www.vacd.org

Troy Dare, RFP Program Manager
(802) 828-4582 or dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

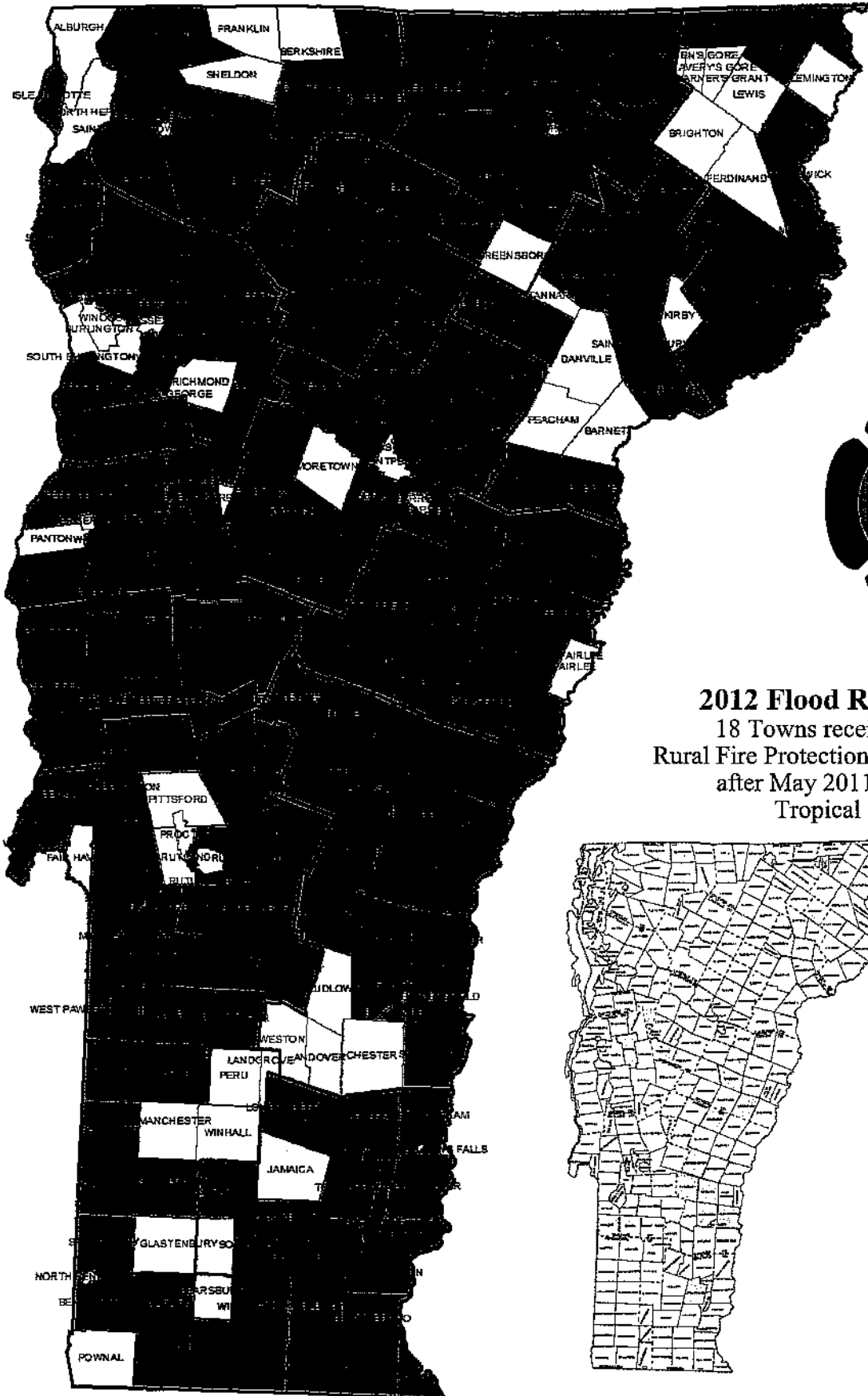


The mission of the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is to improve the safety and welfare of Vermont communities by assisting local fire departments in reducing the risk of injury, loss of life, and damage to property and natural resources.



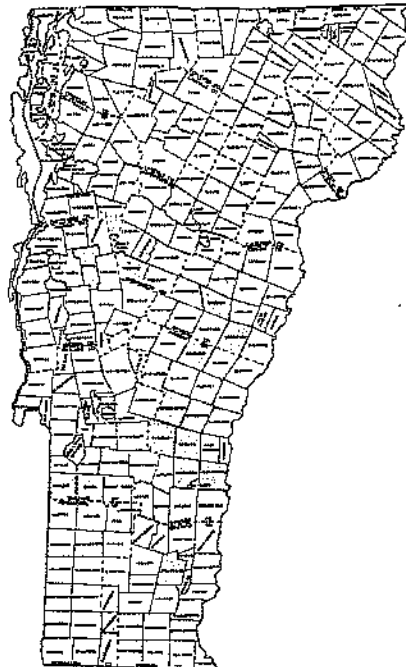
1998-2021 Rural Fire Protection Grant Program Recipients

215 Towns were awarded 981 dry hydrant grants up to \$10,000 totaling over \$2M funded by Vermont Legislative Appropriations through the Department of Public Safety



2012 Flood Recovery Grants

18 Towns received 28 grants for Rural Fire Protection Repair & Replacement after May 2011 flood damage & Tropical Storm Irene



- Bridgewater - (3) \$3,139
- Bristol - (2) \$3,150
- Cabot - (1) \$2,800
- Cavendish - (1) \$1,500
- Chelsea - (1) \$300
- Danby - (2) \$7,310
- Huntington - (1) \$3,166
- Newark - (2) \$5,948
- West Pawlet - (2) \$2,831
- Plymouth - (2) \$2,972
- Reading - (3) \$6,992
- Readsboro - (1) \$1,250
- Royalton - (1) \$7,860
- Sheffield - (1) \$1,437
- Strafford - (1) \$2,491
- Townshend - (1) \$2,014
- Warren - (2) \$8,984
- Weathersfield - (1) \$48,000

\$64,627 Total

1998-2021 Rural Fire Protection Grant Program Recipient Numbers

215 Towns were awarded 1 or more dry hydrant grant(s) funded by

Vermont State Legislative Appropriations through the Department of Public Safety

Addison (20T) 85 Grants

Addison - 7
Bridport - 6
Bristol - 13
Cornwall - 2
Ferrisburg - 2
Goshen - 1
Granville - 3
Hancock - 4
Leicester - 1
Lincoln - 2
Middlebury - 3
Monkton - 6
New Haven - 17
Orwell - 9
Ripton - 4
Salisbury - 2
Shoreham - 2
Starksboro - 7
Waltham - 1
Weybridge - 3
Whiting - 3

Bennington (12T) 44 Grants

Arlington - 1
Bennington - 2
Dorset - 1
Manchester - 1
Pownal - 4
Readsboro - 7
Rupert - 7
Sandgate - 12
Shaftsbury - 3
Stamford - 3
Sunderland - 1
Woodford - 3

Caledonia (14T) 56 Grants

Burke - 5
Danville - 4
Groton - 4
Hardwick - 1
Lyndon - 3
Newark - 3
Peacham - 1
Ryegate - 7
Sheffield - 2
St. Johnsbury - 6
Sutton - 4
Walden - 5
Waterford - 10
Wheelock - 5

Chittenden (13T) 40 Grants

Bolton - 3
Charlotte - 7
Colchester - 1
Essex - 2
Hinesburg - 2
Huntington - 5
Jericho - 1
Milton - 1
St. George - 1
Shelburne - 4
Underhill - 1
Westford - 13
Williston - 2

Essex (12T) 26 Grants

Averill - 2
Brunswick - 1
Bloomfield - 1
Canaan - 5
Concord - 3
East Haven - 1
Granby - 1
Guildhall - 1
Lunenburg (Gilman) - 3
Maidstone - 5
Norton - 2
Victory - 1

Franklin (12T) 47 Grants

Bakersfield - 5
Enosburg - 9
Fairfax - 2
Fairfield - 6
Fletcher - 3
Georgia - 4
Highgate - 5
Montgomery - 7
Richford - 3
Sheldon - 6
St. Albans - 2
Swanton - 1

Grand Isle (3T) 5 Grants

Grand Isle - 1
Isle La Motte - 2
South Hero - 2

Lamoille (10T) 66 Grants

Belvidere - 3
Cambridge - 13
Eden - 8
Elmore - 5
Hyde Park - 15
Johnson - 6
Morristown - 6
Stowe - 7
Waterville - 2
Wolcott - 5

Orange (17T) 86 Grants

Bradford - 6
Braintree - 2
Brookfield - 2
Chelsea - 7
Corinth - 6
Newbury - 5
Orange - 7
Randolph - 2
Rochester - 1
Strafford - 8
Thetford - 4
Topsham - 9
Tunbridge - 5
Vernshire - 10
Washington - 6
West Fairlee - 4
Williamstown - 3

Orleans (19T) 85 Grants

Albany - 6
Barton - 2
Brownington (Orleans) - 8
Charleston - 7
Coventry - 8
Craftsbury - 15
Derby - 1
Glover - 2
Greensboro - 7
Holland - 5
Irasburg - 5
Jay - 1
Lowell - 8
Morgan - 2
Newport - 2
Newport City - 3
Troy - 1
Westfield - 3
Westmore - 3

Rutland (24T) 123 Grants

Benson - 5
Brandon - 3
Castleton - 2
Chittenden - 4
Clarendon - 5
Danby - 9
Hubbardton - 1
Ira - 2
Mendon - 3
Mount Holly - 10
Mount Tabor - 1
Middletown Springs - 7
Pawlet - 6
Pittsfield - 4
Poultney - 6
Rutland (Town) - 4
Sherburne (Killington) - 11
Shrewsbury - 8
Sudbury - 3
Tinnmouth - 5
Wallingford - 1
Wells - 9
West Haven - 4
West Pawlet - 15

Washington (17T) 74 Grants

Barre (Town) - 2
Berlin - 5
Cabot - 11
Calais - 8
Duxbury - 1
East Montpelier - 5
Fayston - 1
Marshfield - 9
Middlesex - 4
Northfield - 4
Plainfield - 5
Roxbury - 6
Waitsfield - 2
Warren - 1
Waterbury - 3
Woodbury - 4
Worcester - 5

Windham (21T) 76 Grants

Athens - 3
Brattleboro - 2
Brookline - 2
Dover - 6
Dummerston - 8
Grafton - 3
Guilford - 1
Halifax - 3
Londonderry - 6
Marlboro - 4
Newfane (Broadbrook) - 5
Putney - 5
Townshend - 9
Rockingham - 3
Stratton - 2
Vernon - 1
Wardsboro - 3
Westminster - 3
Whitingham - 4
Wilmington - 9
Windham - 2

Windsor (20T) 106 Grants

Baltimore - 1
Barnard - 1
Bethel - 8
Bridgewater - 15
Cavendish - 6
Hartford - 7
Hartland - 7
Norwich - 11
Plymouth - 6
Pomfret - 10
Reading - 11
Rochester - 1
Royalton - 4
Sharon - 2
Springfield - 4
Stockbridge - 6
Weathersfield - 8
West Windsor - 3
Windsor - 2
Woodstock - 3

981 Rural Fire Protection Grants State wide



Rural Fire Protection Task Force Members:

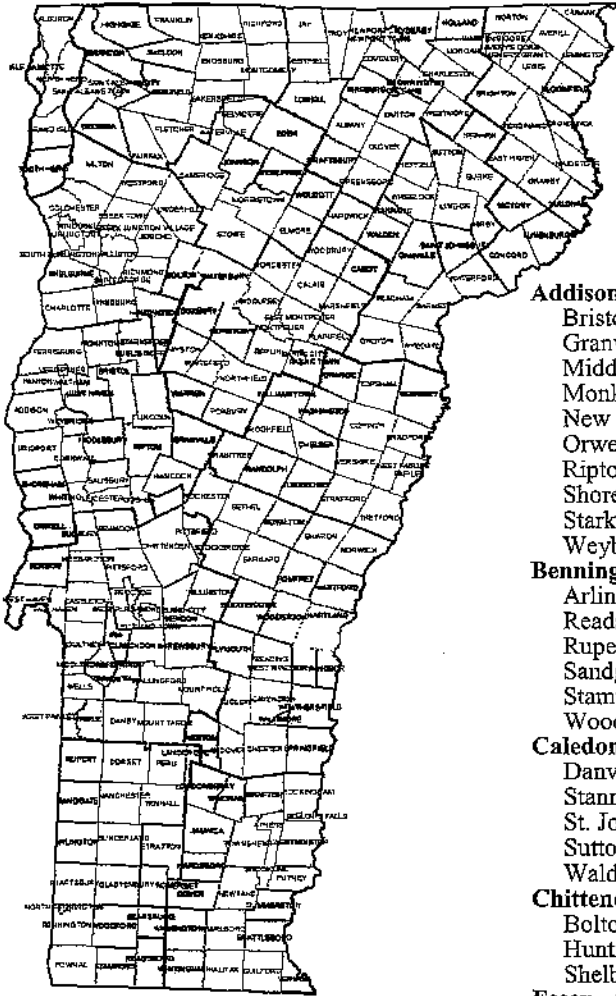
Tom Maclay, Chair, Marshfield VFD
Bill Sanborn, Vice-Chair, Town of Maidstone
Tyler Hermanson, VT Enhanced 9-1-1
Walter Bothfeld Jr., Cabot Fire Department
Mike Greenia, Vermont Division of Fire Safety
Christine Kaiser, Kaiser Farm, Stowe VT
Lars Lund, VT Forest Parks & Recreation Dept.

"As we continue to expand our water supply options, we are thankful to have this program..."

Brian Schmidt, Assistant Fire Chief,

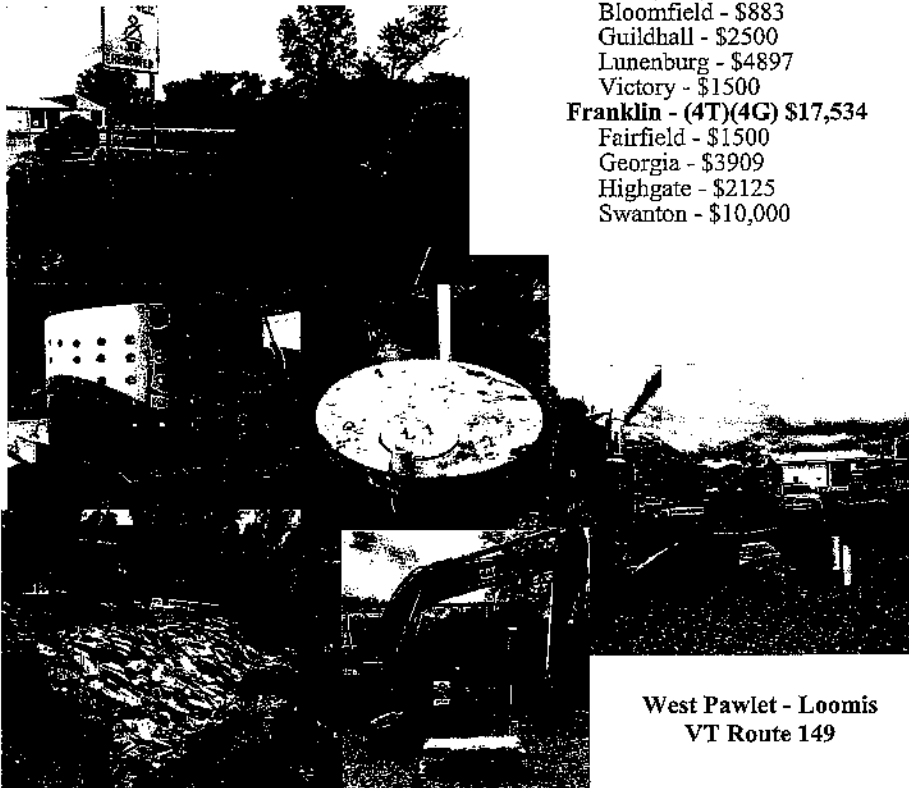
2000-2021 Special Cases Rural Fire Protection Grant Program

90 Towns were awarded 141 Grants up to \$10,000 totaling \$544,777 funded by the US Forest Service through the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation



- Grand Isle - (2T)(3G) \$11,885**
- Isle LaMotte - \$5000
- South Hero - \$5000 + \$1,885
- Lamoille - (4T)(8G) \$40,889**
- Eden - \$5889
- Hyde Park - \$10,000 + (2)\$2500
- Johnson - (2)\$2500
- Wolcott - (2)\$2500
- Orange - (6T)(7G) \$17,319**
- Newbury - \$2500
- Chelsea - \$2500
- Randolph - \$2076
- Tunbridge - \$2218
- Washington - \$490 + \$2500
- Williamstown - \$5035
- Orleans - (6T)(8G) \$22,290**
- Brownington - (2)\$2500
- Craftsbury - \$2500
- Derby - \$6074
- Holland - \$1875
- Irasburg - \$2500
- Lowell - \$4000 + \$341
- Rutland - (10T)(21G) \$91,626**
- Benson - \$5000
- Chittenden - \$2500
- Ira - (2)\$5000 + \$3000
- Mendon - \$8400 + \$5000 + \$5000
- Middletown Springs - \$10000 + (2)\$2500
- Pawlet E&W - (2)\$2500 + \$6430 + \$9796 + \$5000
- Pittsfield - (2)\$2500
- Sherburne (Killington) - \$7500
- Shrewsbury - (2)\$2500 + \$1500
- Tinmouth - \$2500
- Washington - (6T)(10G) \$39,833**
- Cabot - \$1186 + \$10,000 + \$3750
- Duxbury - \$1897
- East Montpelier - \$2500
- Moretown - \$2500
- Plainfield - \$9000
- Warren - \$4000 + (2)\$2500
- Waterbury - \$5000
- Windham - (12T)(17G) \$84,624**
- Brattleboro - \$9,800
- Dover - (2)\$2500
- Dummerston - \$10,000 + \$2500
- Grafton - \$2500
- Jamaica - \$5000
- Londonderry - \$7372
- Vernon - \$4889
- Wardsboro - \$5000 + \$5276
- Westminster - (2)\$2500
- Whitingham - \$10,000
- Wilmington - \$2500 + \$3954
- Windham - \$5833
- Windsor - (12T)(24G) \$95,928**
- Baltimore - \$1875 + \$5000
- Bridgewater - (2)\$2500 + \$4466
- Hartford - (2)\$2500 + \$3403
- Hartland - \$5000
- Plymouth - (2)\$2500 + \$4000 + \$4888
- Pomfret - \$2500
- Royalton - \$10,000 + \$7396
- Springfield - \$2500
- Weathersfield - (2)\$2500 + \$10,000 + \$5000
- Weston - \$2500
- West Windsor - \$2500
- Windsor - \$7400
- Woodstock - \$2500

- Addison - (10T)(11G) \$25,632**
- Bristol - \$1395
- Granville - \$3036 + \$2500
- Middlebury - \$970
- Monkton - \$5000
- New Haven - \$2628
- Orwell - \$2500
- Ripton - \$103
- Shoreham - \$2500
- Starksboro - \$2500
- Weybridge - \$2500
- Bennington - (6T)(9G) \$38,218**
- Arlington - \$415
- Readsboro - \$5937 + \$2,125
- Rupert - \$9086 + \$5927 + \$5003
- Sandgate - \$2500
- Stamford - \$2500
- Woodford - \$4725
- Caledonia - (5T)(6G) \$25,830**
- Danville - \$2500
- Stannard - \$1840
- St. Johnsbury - \$6490
- Sutton - \$10,000
- Walden - (2)\$2500
- Chittenden - (3T)(5G) \$13,389**
- Bolton - \$2500
- Huntington - (2)\$2500
- Shelburne - \$2500 + \$3389
- Essex - (4T)(4G) \$9,780**
- Bloomfield - \$883
- Guildhall - \$2500
- Lunenburg - \$4897
- Victory - \$1500
- Franklin - (4T)(4G) \$17,534**
- Fairfield - \$1500
- Georgia - \$3909
- Highgate - \$2125
- Swanton - \$10,000



West Pawlet - Loomis
VT Route 149



Rural Fire Protection projects in the ... And on-line!

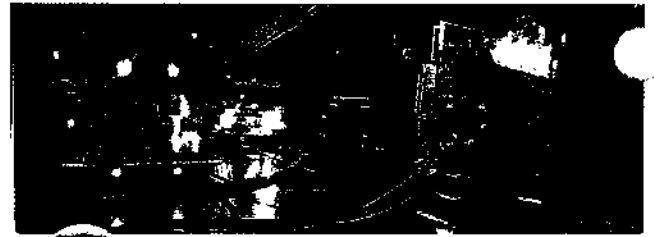


Steve Perkins

Public group

+ Album

Craftsbury Fire Department, with aid from a Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force grant, recently completed an upgrade of 15 hydrant heads. This upgrade standardizes the type of connection at all dry hydrants in town, therefore reducing the number of fittings and time needed to make connections.



West Rutland Fire Department
Fire Station

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About

See All

West Rutland Fire Department

217 Maple Street West
Rutland VT 05777

The West Rutland Fire Department has installed a dry hydrant on Pleasant Street near the Whipple Hollow Road intersection. This installation was made possible through a grant and technical support from the Vermont Rural Fire Protection Program. This dry hydrant provides us with year-round access to a reliable water supply, which greatly improves fire protection capabilities in the Whipple Hollow area.

The West Rutland Fire Department was established in 1991 and since then has continuously provided our town with fire protection. The Department is... See More

1,143 people like this including 8 of your friends

1,217 people follow this

6 people worked in here

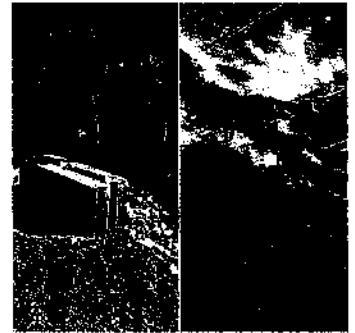
<http://www.westrutlandfire.com/town-department/fire-department>

1807 438-2423

Typically replies within a few hours
Send Message

fire @vermontnews.org

Fire Station - 7 to Frequent Service



Hartland Fire Dept & Rescue Squad
12h

Together with support from members of our community, volunteer firefighters, O&D excavation and a grant through the Vermont Rural Fire Protection (RFP) Task Force Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD), the Hartland Volunteer Fire Department on September 16, 2020 completed the repair and upgrade of a dry hydrant installed at 160 Hart and Hill Road. The repair and upgrade of this dry hydrant is part of a comprehensive program to improve fire protection in rural portions of Hartland.

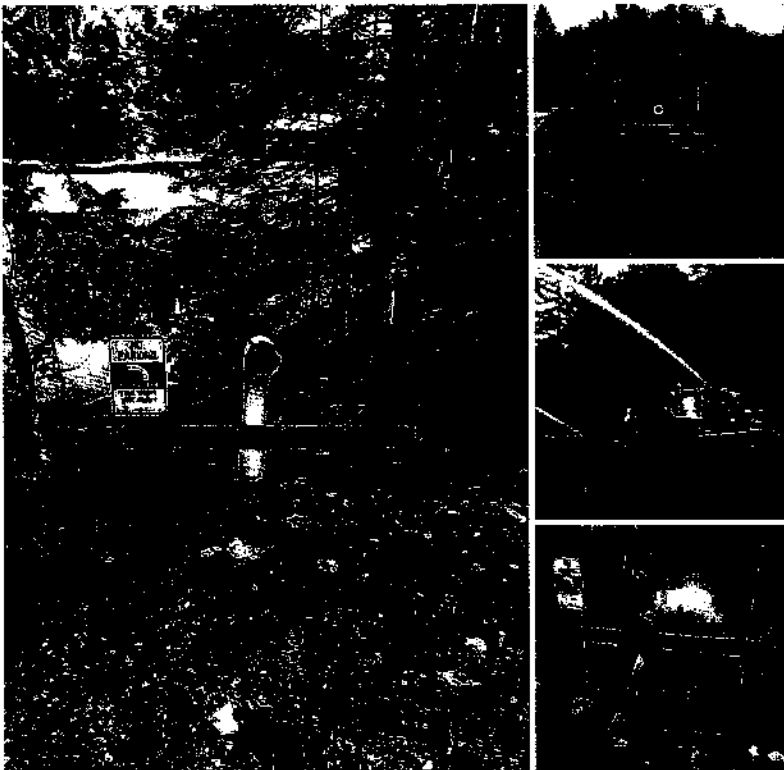
The fire Department is in the process of improving fire protection in Hartland by installing dry hydrants and other RFP systems to improve the availability and accessibility of water for firefighting purposes. The Vermont RFP Task Force through the VACD provided assistance to the Fire Department in developing a plan to improve this water supply in Hartland.

The Vermont Legislature approved Appropriations to assist communities in installing dry hydrants to improve fire protection in the rural areas of Vermont. The Vermont RFP Task Force with the assistance of VACD administers the grant program. Hartland has used this program to assist with the majority of the dry hydrant installations and repairs in Hartland and strongly endorses the program's continuation.

Dry hydrants and other RFP systems are a preferred method of providing water for firefighting in areas where there are no water mains. A dry hydrant consists of a 6 to 8 inch pipe with a fitting to which a pumptanker truck can attach. The pipe connects to a water source (pond or stream) that can supply at least 60,000 gallons under drought conditions.

This is but one example of the service your fire department provides in preparation for the next storm.

Sincerely,
John Sanders, Chief
Hartland Volunteer Fire Department



"The pond had filled in with weeds and hydrant was not working. We were able to get to the pond cleaned out and a new hydrant installed...could not have been done with your support." Walter "Skip" Bothfeld Jr.
Chief, Cabot Fire Department

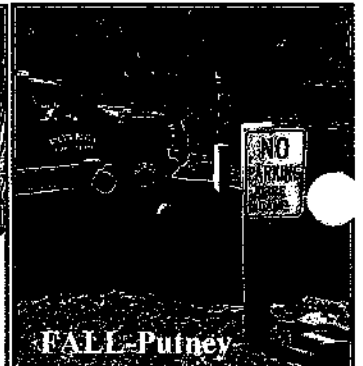
RFP systems are reliable rural water supply sources year round!



SPRING - Plymouth



WINTER - Sandgate



FALL - Putney