



Texas Wildfire Protection Plan– Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System Grants

Background

Since 2010, the Texas Wildfire Protection Plan (TWPP)–Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS) grants program has provided 44 fire engines, 428 pieces of protective equipment, and training tuitions for 7,266 firefighters. Currently, the TIFMAS program has \$22 million in unfunded requests, and applications for TIFMAS grant assistance are expected to increase.

Program Description

Municipal fire departments participating in TIFMAS are eligible for grants for fire engines, protective gear, and training. Participating fire departments agree to maintain and mobilize this equipment at the request of the state to help meet critical emergency response operation needs. The program benefits both rural and urban/municipal fire departments by providing a mobile pool of local resources for statewide use. The Texas A&M Forest Service collaborates with the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association, and the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters in supporting the TIFMAS grant program.

Since 2008, TIFMAS mobilizations have provided 4,555 firefighters and 1,132 fire engines during state-led emergency responses to disasters.

Hurricane Harvey response:

- ▶ 974 firefighters
- ▶ 145 fire engines
- ▶ 44 boats

2018 wildfire response:

- ▶ 738 firefighters
- ▶ 218 fire engines

2018 California wildfire response:

- ▶ 98 firefighters
- ▶ 25 fire engines

Exceptional Item Request
FY 2020–21
\$2 Million
over 2018–19 funding levels

Objective

Provide an additional 6-8 fire engines as well as training grants for an additional 1,500 firefighters per biennium.

TIFMAS mobilizations supported the following state operations:

- ▶ Wildfires, 2009, 2011–12 and 2015–18
 - ▶ Hurricane Harvey, 2017
 - ▶ Floods, 2009, 2015, 2016, 2017
 - ▶ West Fertilizer Company explosion, 2013
 - ▶ Hurricane Alex, 2010
 - ▶ Hurricane Ike, 2008
- And, for the first time, out-of-state operations:
- ▶ California wildfires, 2018