

**State of Vermont**  
**Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation**

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*Agency of Natural Resources*

TO: Vermont Rural Fire Chiefs and Town Forest Fire Wardens  
FROM: Forest Resource Protection, Vermont Forests, Parks & Recreation  
DATE: September 13, 2023  
SUBJECT: Wildland Fire Gear 50/50 Purchasing Program

The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) 50/50 Purchasing Program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, is available to rural towns in Vermont with a population of 10,000 or less. The purpose of the VFA program is to provide financial assistance to equip fire departments in rural communities to prevent and suppress wildland fires. Towns order their equipment and pay 50% of the total cost, and the other 50% is covered by the purchasing program.

**The 50/50 Purchasing Program will be available October 1, 2023 - November 30, 2023, OR until the funds have been depleted, whichever comes first. Orders may not exceed \$5,000 total.**

Once again this year, we will be utilizing our online ordering system. The link to the “[Fire Gear Order Form](#)” is on the FPR Website at: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/wildland-fire-equipment> and will allow fire departments to order all the items in the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Wildland Catalog accessed on the FPR website.

Please feel free to contact us for assistance with this system. Many Town Clerks are already familiar with other forms using the *ANROnline* system and may be able to assist you as well. Please note that *ANROnline* does not work with Internet Explorer. You will also need to have a printer connected to your computer to print out the payment voucher to mail to us with a check. We are not currently set up to take credit cards but are planning to in the future. The system will automatically apply the 50% discount while funds are available. On the FPR website, we have added an instruction tutorial and detailed video to walk you through the entire ordering process.

To begin the process of ordering equipment for your town, select the link on the FPR website for the “[Fire Gear Order Form](#)” Click on “Begin Form Entry.” This will start the process to create a username and password. You will need to have your federal Fire Department ID number available to start your order. There is a link on the log-in page to the FDID numbers. Note: You need to log into the *ANROnline* system prior to typing in your FDID.

**Important:** Please update contact information and emails for your fire department. You can add as many contacts as you want. This email list is our method of informing about any 50/50 equipment offerings.

Be sure to look through the Wildland Catalog prior to ordering and double check to be sure the items you ordered are what you intended. It can be confusing since many items have been included. Every item in the catalog and online system has a unique 13-digit NSN number. Using the NSN number is the best way to make sure you are ordering the correct item(s). Items ordered by mistake cannot be returned.

This is the only time of year when wildland fire gear is available at half price through the 50/50 Purchasing Program. The procedure for ordering equipment from the catalog throughout the rest of the year will also be through the online Fire Gear Order [Form](#), however, the 50% discount will only be applied for orders submitted while the 50/50 Purchasing Program is open.

This year’s timing should allow wildland fire equipment to be ordered and delivered before the spring fire season. Please double check the thread compatibility on all hoses, nozzles and reducers offered through this program against what your department is currently using.

Items included in the program are available to be viewed in the Wildland Fire Equipment Catalog from Defense Logistics Agency, also posted on the FPR website: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/wildland-fire-equipment>.

Please forward this information to anyone in the fire service that may have need for wildland fire equipment and PPE.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact Dan Dillner, by phone at 777-3079 or by e-mail at [Dan.Dillner@vermont.gov](mailto:Dan.Dillner@vermont.gov). If you need assistance with your order please contact Catherine Todd, by phone at 879-6565 or e-mail at [Cathrine.Todd@vermont.gov](mailto:Cathrine.Todd@vermont.gov).