



Warning: Hot Coffee!

Reimbursement for Fighting Fire on Federal Property

No. HC-2013-1 September 12, 2013

Learning Objective: Students will understand that their fire department may be eligible for reimbursement from the federal government for fighting fires on federal property.

Has your fire department been called to fight fire on property owned by the United States government? If so, the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), which is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, may be able to help you obtain reimbursement for costs above and beyond your fire department's ordinary operating expenses. To ease the financial burden on local fire departments for fire suppression on federally owned property, Congress has authorized USFA to review and approve requests for reimbursement.

Your fire department may qualify for compensation of direct expenses over and above normal operating costs, including:

- Overtime pay.
- Pay for specially hired personnel.
- Additional fuel expenses.
- Food expenses.
- Loss or damage of equipment.

Applications for reimbursement must be submitted within 90 days of the incident and include the following:

- Incident/Fire report.
- Documentation of federal ownership of property where fire occurred.
- Information on mutual-aid agreements with any federal agency.
- A list of any money or grants that the federal government has paid the claimant.

Provide receipts for any expenses that you are claiming, including time sheets for callback or overtime. Response information from your dispatch center is also required in proving a claim. Please include complete contact information for the chief of your fire department, including telephone number and email address.

Claims must be sent to the following address:

Reimbursement Program for Firefighting on Federal Property
c/o U.S. Fire Administration
J. Dennis Gentzel, G Building
Prevention and Information Branch
16825 South Seton Ave.
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

Remember, claims must be submitted within 90 days of the incident in order to receive reimbursement.

Please call J. Dennis Gentzel at 301-447-7574 with questions.

For more information on reimbursement for firefighting on federal property, visit http://www.usfa.fema.gov/fireservice/grants_funding/federal_reimbursement.shtm.



Eligible for Continuing Education Units (CEUs)
at www.nfaonline.fema.gov

For archived downloads, go to:

www.usfa.fema.gov/nfa/coffee-break/