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Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Grand Teton National Park

Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Forest Service  
Bridger-Teton National Forest

## Teton Interagency Fire Management

### Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Receives 2005 Rural Fire Assistance Funding



The National Park Service, in conjunction with Grand Teton National Park, recently provided \$8,000 to the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS department through the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) Program. The department was one of 56 rural fire departments within the National Park Service Intermountain Region to receive funding through the program in 2005.

An important component of the National Fire Plan, the federal RFA Program assists rural fire departments with equipment purchases, training and supplies on a cost - share basis. The program was initiated to increase firefighter safety and enhance wildland fire protection capabilities in rural areas that often rely heavily on volunteer firefighting resources. Specifically, it targets rural and volunteer fire departments that have a substantial cooperative role in the protection of Department of Interior lands and support interagency fire efforts. Jackson Hole Fire/EMS, along with the Bridger- Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park, has helped create a strong partnership that provides mutual support and consistent objectives in the area of wildland fire management.



Jackson Hole Fire/EMS used the grant money to purchase 145 pairs of Nomex pants for use during wildland fire incidents. Nomex<sup>®</sup>, a brand name for aramid fabric produced by DuPont, is a high - strength, flame - resistant synthetic material used in wildland firefighter clothing. Previously, the department had a mix of older style Nomex pants and did not have a large enough inventory to provide each firefighter with a pair of their own. Though several pairs were stored in each county fire vehicle for responders to access enroute to incidents, they were only available in a limited assortment of sizes. Now, states Rusty Palmer, Deputy Chief of Administration and Prevention for the county, each firefighter is equipped with their own Nomex. "It's stepped up the level of preparedness and professionalism of our wildland fire responders," states Palmer.

The department operates seven stations in Teton County.