



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Carlsbad Caverns
National Park

3225 National Parks Hwy
Carlsbad, NM 88220

505 785-2232 phone
505 785-2133 fax

Carlsbad Caverns News Release

For Immediate Release
Bridget Einfeldt 505 785-2232 ext. 360

Carlsbad Caverns Receives Rural Fire Assistance Grant for White's City Fire Department

Carlsbad Caverns National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott today announced the award of a \$8,829 grant to the White's City Fire Department to enhance fire protection.

The grant check will be presented to the Eddy County Commissioners at their meeting on October 15. The funding will be used to purchase water storage tanks for the fire stations in White's City and near Washington Ranch.

"The water systems that serve the two stations do not provide sufficient volume to refill fire engines fast enough to support either structural or wildland fire suppression demands," stated Mark Maciha, the park's chief ranger. "With the water storage capacity of these new tanks, we will be able to refill a water tender in three to five minutes instead of the 20 minutes that it now takes. That can make a real difference when it comes to saving structures or minimizing acres lost to wildland fire."

"The county fire departments have been wonderful in supporting fire suppression on Federal lands and it is great to have an opportunity to say 'thank you' with this grant," said Scott.

The park applied for a grant from the Department of the Interior-National Park Service (NPS) Rural Fire Assistance program. The program was created to assist rural fire departments that play substantial roles in protecting NPS lands. The NPS Fire Assistance program's goal is to enhance the effectiveness of wildland fire protection on lands adjacent to NPS units.

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October 7, 2002