

## New Jersey Utilizes Property Program

## Federal Excess Program Provides Valuable Equipment for State Wildfire Management

### The Challenge

The New Jersey Forest Fire Service (FFS) is charged with protecting more than 3.2 million acres from wildland fires and suppresses more than 1,200 wildland fires annually. They also treat hazardous fuels with prescribed fire to prevent wildfires or lessen their severity.

The agency uses a variety of tools to protect the citizens of New Jersey. With rising population and development, the job is becoming increasingly costly and complex. It can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to acquire and equip its employees with specialized fire equipment.

### The Solution

State forestry agencies can obtain excess Federal equipment and materials through the Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP) that is managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Fire and Aviation group. In 2008, the New Jersey FFS acquired a truck formerly used for setting telephone poles. They removed the truck's utility body and installed a used firefighting unit. They then constructed and installed a 500-gallon aluminum tank, 200-gallon per minute pump, hose reel, and associated plumbing. The unit can now provide a crucial supply of water where no other source is available.

### Resulting Benefits

The New Jersey FFS used in-house resources to convert and modify the vehicle at a modest cost of about \$3,000. The unit replaced another older, converted FEPP unit. The truck is a versatile wildland engine that can also tow a tractor plow for initial fire attack and prescribed fire projects. Because the conversion was completed in-house, it resulted in a major savings for the Forest Fire Service and the State of New Jersey—a new modified vehicle would have cost the State more than \$100,000. The New Jersey FFS now has



*Before and After: These photographs illustrate the New Jersey FEPP truck before and after conversion and modification. Photo Credit: Photo courtesy of the New Jersey Forest Fire Service.*

the use of equipment and apparatus it could not afford to purchase with State funding.

### Sharing Success

Ongoing FEPP screening programs provide the States with the best opportunity to strategically screen and obtain property that fits their fire management needs. Usable vehicles, equipment, and materials obtained through the FEPP program can save States and volunteer fire departments thousands of dollars and improve wildland fire protection and management. With \$9 million in new acquisitions in 2008, States are using property worth \$233.4 million.

*The Federal Excess Personal Property Program provides equipment that can be converted into valuable wildland firefighting equipment, resulting in major savings for State forestry programs.*



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