

Fire Prevention and Awareness

Federal Excess Property Fills Gap for Prevention Program

The Challenge

Hundreds of Americans die in house fires each year. In New Hampshire, the death rate is approximately 4.6 people per million residents. For several years, the New Hampshire Department of Safety wanted to add a fire sprinkler demonstration trailer to its fire prevention program. The trailer would be used to educate New Hampshire residents about how effective residential and commercial sprinkler systems can be if a fire broke out. However, a sprinkler demonstration trailer could cost between \$55,000 and \$60,000, and annual budgets could not support this purchase.

The Solution

State forestry agencies can obtain excess Federal equipment and materials through the Federal Excess Personal Property program (FEPP), managed by the Fire and Aviation Group of the U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry. Using the FEPP Program, the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands obtained a 30-foot travel trailer for the New Hampshire Department of Safety. This trailer was among those used for temporary housing after Hurricane Katrina.

The Department of Safety retrofitted the trailer to transform it into a fire sprinkler demonstration trailer. In the rear of the trailer, people can watch videos about using and installing fire sprinklers on a large screen television. The center of the trailer is used for demonstrating how home fire kitchen hoods can extinguish a stove top fire. Live fire demonstrations take place at the front of the trailer.



This retro-fitted Katrina trailer becomes the NH Department of Safety's Residential Sprinkler Display Trailer. (Photo provided by NH Division of Forests and Lands, Forest Protection Bureau.)

Resulting Benefits

The total cost of retrofitting the trailer, after accounting for donations from several local companies, was just under \$30,000. This project saved thousands of dollars for the residents of New Hampshire. This demonstration trailer is being used numerous times to educate government officials, firefighters, homeowners, building officials, and other groups about the tremendous effect that home fire sprinklers have in saving lives.

Sharing Success

State forestry agencies can use the FEPP program to provide equipment and materials to communities if they understand the needs of State and local public safety agencies and volunteer fire departments.

The New Hampshire Department of Safety obtained excess Federal property through the Northeastern Area to expand its fire prevention education program at a cost savings to the State.



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