

STATE AND VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS

The State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs are federal initiatives that support state and local firefighting agencies across the country in managing and responding to wildfires.

Background

America's forests and forest-dependent communities are at risk from outbreaks of pests and pathogens, persistent drought, and the buildup of hazardous fuels. Urbanization and development patterns are placing more homes and communities near fire-prone landscapes, leading to more destructive and costly wildland fires.

The State Fire Assistance (SFA) and Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) programs help decrease total federal costs for emergency wildland fire suppression by bolstering local readiness and improving local response in the event of a fire. The programs also reduce the threat of fire to people, communities, and both public and private lands.

Ask

- ▶ Provide \$82 million for the State Fire Assistance Program and \$23 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program to fully and adequately fight fires and keep our homes and communities safe.

Talking Points

▶ **Strengthens National Fire Response Capacity**

Investing in local and state readiness through SFA and VFA helps to create a more resilient, better-coordinated response to wildfires.

Additionally, preventing or containing fires early with well-supported local resources is far less expensive than the massive federal expenditures required for large-scale suppression and disaster recovery.

▶ **Frontline Support for Local Firefighters**

SFA and VFA provide direct, tangible resources—equipment, training, and planning assistance—to the local and volunteer fire departments that must be prepared to respond to wildfires.

▶ **Protects Lives, Property, and Natural Resources**

By supporting early detection, mitigation, and suppression efforts, these programs help prevent wildfires from escalating into disasters that threaten homes, lives, forests, and infrastructure.

