

VERMONT RURAL FIRE PROTECTION TASK FORCE

c/o Vermont Association of Conservation Districts (VACD)



Rural Fire Protection Program
170 Lower Sumner Hill, Sumner, ME 04292
(802) 828-4582 - dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com



This entire application packet is available online at:
VACD.org/RFP

2026 Rural Fire Protection Program
(Formerly the Dry Hydrant Grant Program)

The Vermont Rural Fire Protection Task Force is pleased to announce the **28th** year of funding for towns to improve fire suppression capabilities. The goals of the program are to:

- **Save lives**, by reducing response time and improving both public and firefighter safety.
- **Enable fire fighters to have quicker, easier and safer year round drafting capability.**
- **Reduce risks to property and natural resources**, both private and public.
- **Lower insurance premiums**, both private and public.

GRANT INFO:

- The **maximum** grant award is **\$10,000** per project/system. 25% local match is required. **(Maximum grant could be as much as \$20,000 if the project meets other criteria such as project cost, type & date completed.)**
- The installation of *new* dry hydrants & other types of rural water supplies is still the priority of the program, but eligible projects *also include* **repair/upgrade, replacement, relocation of existing rural water supplies** (whether previously grant funded or not) **and drafting site development (access, stepping stones for portables, etc.)**
- We have application **deadlines of April 1st, June 1st & August 1st**. Please submit your application (s) by the appropriate deadline and it will be processed in the order it was received.

Vermont Towns & Fire Departments are eligible for grant funding. If approved for funding, after sites have been assessed, designed, and estimated, **two signed agreements will be required:**

1. **Landowner authorization if the project is to be constructed on privately-owned land.** Please see the example included in this packet. An editable version is available online at: VACD.org/RFP
2. **A grant agreement between the Town or FD and VACD** that outlines the project implementation plan, final award amount, and approved budget.

Complete ONE application per proposed installation and email/mail to:

VACD – RFP Program
c/o Troy Dare
dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com
170 Lower Sumner Hill, Sumner, ME 04292

- Please **include any cost estimates and/or descriptions** you have for the project with your application.
- **A 25% local match of total project cost is required.** Match can be met through cash contributions and/or in-kind services such as labor, materials and equipment usage.
- On a case by case basis, the RFP Program Technician may have to be present for the installation of a new or repair of a grant funded RFP system.

Project completion will involve submitting:

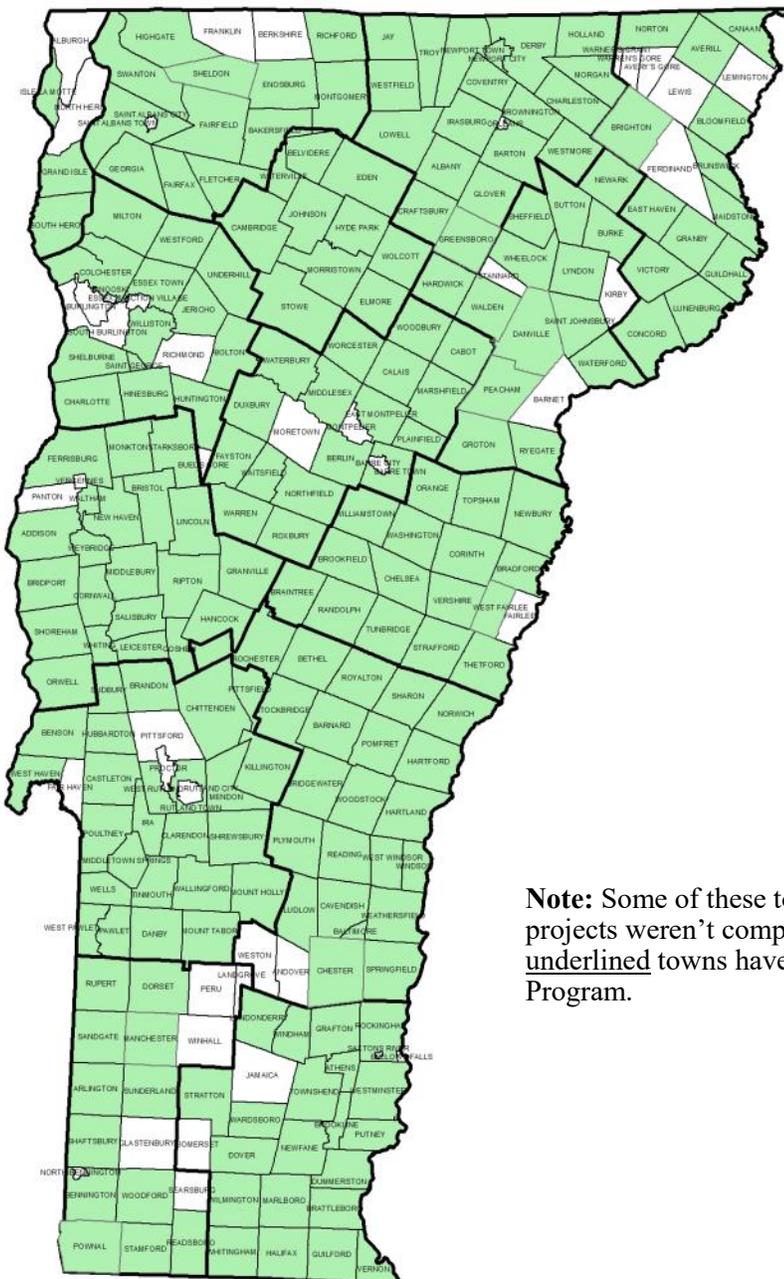
- Total project expense documentation including local match and copies of invoices & receipts.
- Project photos before, during, and after completion.
- News article or other public announcement summarizing the project.
- Final inspection that includes: a maintenance log started with results from the first back-flush and test of the system, proper guard posts, signage, painting of any exposed PVC pipe, and any other site specific requirements such as water source capacity and access.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Please contact:

Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Program Manager
 (802) 828-4582 or dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

The map and list of **33 towns** in white below **have not completed a VT State grant-funded Rural Fire Protection system.** Applications from these towns will be given top priority for grant funding.



- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Alburg | Panton |
| Andover | Peru |
| Avery's Gore | Pittsford |
| Barnet | Proctor |
| Burlington | Richmond |
| Buel's Gore | Rutland (City) |
| Fairlee | Searsburg |
| Fair Haven | Somerset |
| Ferdinand | South Burlington |
| Franklin | St. Albans (City) |
| Glastenbury | <u>Stannard</u> |
| <u>Jamaica</u> | Vergennes |
| Kirby | Warners Grant |
| Langrove | Warren Gore |
| Lewis | <u>Weston</u> |
| Lemington | <u>Winhall</u> |
| | Winooski |

Note: Some of these towns have applied in the past but their projects weren't completed for one reason or another. The 3 underlined towns have benefitted from the Special Cases Grant Program.



2026 RURAL FIRE PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Application Deadlines are April 1st, June 1st & August 1st
Entire application packet, and all other forms, can be emailed to you or
downloaded at VACD.org/RFP

PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS - ESPECIALLY THE CONTACT INFORMATION

TOWN NAME _____ COUNTY _____ NAME OF FIRE DEPARTMENT _____

Name of Proposing Organization or Grantee (who check will be made out to) _____

CONTACT PERSON INFO: NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

DAYTIME PHONE #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS: _____ ZIP: _____

**You are applying for ONE Rural Fire Protection System grant that covers 75% of the total project cost; maximum of \$10,000.
(Maximum grant could be as much as \$20,000 if the project meets other criteria such as project cost, type & date completed).
Final grant award will be determined after the site has been assessed, designed, and estimated.
COMPLETE A SEPARATE APPLICATION FOR EACH PROJECT**

What is the service area (type of structures i.e. residential, commercial etc.) and why is this system necessary? _____

What is the needed ISO fire flow for the hydrant? _____ gpm (See **Needed Fire Flow** guidelines & include calculations with application)

If this system is installed, how far is it to the next nearest water supply; and what type of system is it? _____

Town where hydrant will be installed: _____

How many operational Rural Fire Protection Systems (Dry Hydrants, etc.) do you have in your town right now? _____

If other towns will be served by this hydrant, name them: _____

Do you have the proposed installation designed? YES NO If yes, attach design with this form.

If no, is design assistance needed? YES NO IF NO, EXPLAIN: _____

ALL designs must be submitted to and approved by Troy Dare-Engineering Technician prior to installation: 802-828-4582 - dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com

PROJECT TYPE: NEW REPAIR/REPLACEMENT UPGRADE(S) DRAFTING SITE OTHER

FLOOD DAMAGAGED SYSTEM(S) BY EVENT: JULY 2023 DECEMBER 2023 JULY 2024

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION: _____

THIS PROGRAM REQUIRES 25% MATCH WHICH MAY BE PROVIDED IN CASH OR IN-KIND USE OF LABOR, MATERIALS, AND/OR EQUIPMENT. FINAL GRANT PAYMENTS WILL BE CALCULATED AS 75% OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST UP TO \$10,000 MAXIMUM. EXAMPLES: IF YOUR PROJECT TOTAL IS \$8,000, YOUR FINAL GRANT AWARD WILL BE \$8,000 x 0.75 = \$6,000. IF YOUR PROJECT TOTAL IS \$10,000 YOUR FINAL GRANT AWARD WILL BE \$7,500.

DESCRIPTION OF WATER SOURCE (Attach any maps or location information if available.):

Lake/Pond: <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME: _____	Seasonal Low (if known) Volume (gallons) _____	2% Drought Capacity (if known) Volume (gallons) _____
River/Stream: <input type="checkbox"/>	NAME: _____	Flow (cfs) _____	Flow (cfs) _____
Land Ownership: <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	_____		

Do you have a **Landowner Agreement** in place that authorizes the installation and maintenance of the proposed rural water supply system?
YES NO If YES, please attach a copy of the agreement to your application. If NO, a signed agreement will be required before construction begins if you are awarded grant funds. A landowner agreement outlines installation & maintenance requirements by all parties involved. An example is included in this packet. An editable version is available online at VACD.org/RFP

**SEE SECOND PAGE
PLEASE READ IMPORTANT GRANT INFORMATION AND
SIGN TO COMPLETE APPLICATION**



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CONDITIONS OF GRANT:

To ensure continued funding and success of this program, it is preferred that you complete RFP project grant in the construction season it is awarded. Please enter into the grant process with that objective.

Unless an extension is authorized by Troy Dare, Rural Fire Protection Program Manager, **all project work must be completed by November 1, 2026. All paperwork must be submitted by November 15, 2026** for payment of the grant. Rural water supply projects must have all the items completed on the list below for approval and reimbursement.

Requirement since 2023: On a case by case basis the RFP Program Technician may need to be present for the installation of new, or the replaced/repared, grant funded RFP systems.

Final Report developed and submitted by November 15, 2026 which includes:

- **Expense Documentation Form**, including summary of total project expenses, amount requested for reimbursement and amount of local match (25% minimum required), **with copies of paid invoices and receipts.**
- **Six or more** color photos of the project before, **during** and after the project. Please focus on installation photos with action. (Please submit **high resolution, digital pictures**; either on a CD, thumb drive, or emailed to dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com)
- **Public notice of project completion:** We allow online, public, and media notices to satisfy this grant requirement depending on the content of the post, but we still accept, and prefer, printed newspaper and town report publications. Please email complete URL links to the online media to dryhydrantguy@yahoo.com or mail the complete publication page including name, date, and page number to the RFP Office so we can use it in our yearly report. This report is used at fire service events across the state and VT Legislative functions.

A final site inspection will be conducted by Troy Dare, Task Force Engineering Technician to check the following:

- Standpipe **painted**. The paint helps reduce **ultra-violet ray breakdown** and identify dry hydrant location.
- Hydrant protected by **guard posts**. **Guard posts** need to be strategically placed to deflect vehicles and fire apparatus from damaging the connection point or other parts of the system; 6x6s, large stones, concrete blocks, etc. preferred.)
- **Year round access provided**. The access to the dry hydrant is adequate for fire apparatus and will be kept clear and plowed year round.
- **Signage - NO PARKING - Fire Lane** mounted on an 8' sign post, or something similar that keeps the sign visible at all times. (This can be a standard reflective dry hydrant sign or a custom, more aesthetically pleasing sign; as long as it says, "No Parking - Fire Lane," it's adequate.)
- **Maintenance Record** established with first back flush and maximum flow test recorded. Please **MAX flow test** the hydrant until pump reaches cavitation. Along with other important information about the new RFP system, the maximum flow rate is submitted to VT Enhanced 911 for inclusion in the VT State Emergency Response Systems databases. The known max flow rate can be used for training purposes and help monitor the integrity of the system.

Maintenance Required

Dry Hydrants, although relatively simple in concept, have maintenance requirements to remain efficient and operational. Once the system is complete, the maintenance required includes:

- Repainting of any exposed PVC pipe as necessary.
- An annual back-flush and test of the system.
- Maintaining vehicle access year-round.
- Replacing NO PARKING - Fire Lane signage when necessary.
- Other maintenance protocols for other types of rural water supplies.

By signing this application, I certify that the information provided above is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Our Town/ Fire Department will comply with all the requirements of the grant as explained above, including maintaining the system in the future, and will make our financial records available for audit if required.

Signature: _____ Printed: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Organization (Town, Fire Dept., or other Incorporated Entity): _____

If available, please attach any designs/sketches, cost estimates, landowner agreements, maps, or any other relevant information to this completed application.

Developed Water Supply for Rural Fire Protection Landowner Agreement

To: _____ Date: _____
(Town or Fire Department Representative)

Town of: _____

Fire Department: _____

From: _____
(Property Owner or Manager)

I hereby authorize the Town of _____ (hereinafter referred to as Town)

to develop a refill site at (address) _____ for the purpose of providing water to extinguish fires in my community and for other uses with my permission.

I further give the Town permission to erect a dry hydrant or other developed rural water supply system at this location. I understand that the Town will install the rural water supply system and provide materials.

The Town will complete all excavation work so that the surrounding areas and the surface of the ground will be smooth, and present a pleasing appearance. Vegetation will be reestablished.

The Town may use, test, and maintain the dry hydrant or other rural water supply system at any time they deem necessary for continuity of hydrant operations.

The purpose, installation, operation and maintenance of the dry hydrant or other rural water supply system have been explained to me. I fully understand and agree with the explanations provided.

Signature of Landowner or Property Manager

Date

I have fully advised the landowner of the purpose, installation, operation and maintenance of the dry hydrant or other rural water supply system.

Signature of Town or Fire Department Representative

Date

NOTE: The role and/or duties of the Town and Landowner in this agreement may be shared differently between the parties as necessary. This must be done in writing.