

FFP Explained

Where does FFP property come from?

The FFP property comes off of military bases throughout the US. Texas Forest Service has received the majority of its property from bases in Texas, Louisiana, Kansas, Alabama and Mississippi. Property has also come from bases in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Georgia (reference chart of property acquired by program year and location).

What happens to FFP property after it is picked up from a military base?

All property is transported by Texas A&M Forest Service haul trucks to the yard facility at Hudson (just outside of Lufkin) for in-processing and assessment. Before property is made available to departments it is looked over for mechanical defects, missing components or other details that may make the vehicle inoperable which would make it not assignable to a department. Vehicles that do not pass inspection are returned to the DoD program at a military base. According to the federal rules that govern the FFP program they cannot be used for parts and must be returned. Vehicles that pass inspection are made available and assigned to departments.

How does property get assigned?

Property is assigned to departments based on the priority of a fire departments rating. A fire departments rating is based on five parts:

- Number of years the department has been in existence
- Size of the primary 911 response area
- Population of the primary 911 response area
- Distance to the nearest viable mutual aid department
- County Wildfire Exposure Classification

Each of the five parts generates a rating of 0 to 25, for a maximum combined rating of 120. The rating is regarded as a mathematically calculated indicator of a departments need for assistance and can be applied to all departments across the state evenly. A department with a higher rating has a higher priority over a department with a lower rating. The system is used to allocate limited resources, in this case trucks, to where they are most needed and will do the most good.

When property is available to be assigned the first available vehicle is offered to the department that is rated highest on the request list for the vehicle available. The second vehicle available is offered to the department with the second highest rating and so on until there are no more vehicles to be offered. The process repeats when more vehicles become available.

When a vehicle is offered to a department the department will be notified by phone then by email. The email will contain imagery and information about the specific vehicle that is being offered. Also in the email there will be an Accept/Reject letter for the department to respond with. Offers are usually made on Fridays and a department will have 14 days to respond. If the department accepts the offered vehicle a FFP Cooperative Agreement will be emailed. Two copies of the Cooperative Agreement must be signed by the Chief and the original documents mailed back the Texas Forest Service; no faxes or scanned documents can be accepted. After the two signed Cooperative Agreements have been received the vehicle can be delivered or picked up by the department.