SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program

TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE WILL IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO THE TIFMAS GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2013:

The TIFMAS Grant Assistance Program was retained and continued by the 83rd Texas Legislature. Beginning September 1, 2013, the annual budget for the program will be $1 million (consistent with previous years).

TRAINING TUITION

- Cost-share assistance for Training Tuition has increased. The new reimbursement rate is 100% of the actual cost of tuition not to exceed $87 per day up to a maximum of $610 per trainee. The maximum grant assistance per school per department is $6,100. The ANNUAL MAXIMUM for all Training Tuition grant assistance per department is $12,000.
- Cost-share assistance is now available for the Texas State Association of Fire and Emergency Districts (Safe-D) Conference.

TIFMAS APPARATUS

- Applications remain open for the following: Type I (Tactical Tender), Type III (Wildland Engine), and Type VI (Wildland Engine). Texas A&M Forest Service may add additional Engine classifications based upon statewide need; and may add additional specifications and design standards.

TIFMAS APPARATUS -- BRANCH APPROVAL ROTATION

- An eighth TFS administrative unit (Branch) has been created; it is identified as the Panhandle Branch. The Panhandle Branch will follow the Northwest Branch in the TIFMAS Apparatus – Branch Approval Rotation.
  - TIFMAS vehicle grants are approved once annually based upon the Branch rotation order. The new Branch rotation order is as follows: North, West, Northwest, Panhandle, Central, East, South, South Central.
- South Central Branch absorbs 4 counties previously assigned to the East Branch. The 4 counties absorbed into the South Central Branch are as follows:
  - Chambers, Liberty, Montgomery, Walker