



Governor Bill Richardson Keeps Promise- Delivers New Fire Trucks to Local Departments to Improve Resources to Fight Wildfires

**47 local fire departments across New Mexico receive trucks
to help protect lives and property**

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today presented the keys to new fire trucks to eight local fire departments during a news conference at the State Capitol. Last July, the Governor allocated \$5 million in federal funds to purchase a total of 47 trucks to better equip local fire departments across the state to fight wildfires.

“These new trucks will be major weapons in our quick-attack strategy, to hit wildfires with everything we can right from the start, to prevent them from getting out of control,” said Governor Richardson.

Through the height of fire season, May through July, it’s estimated the Governor’s Strategy to pre-position personnel and equipment saved dozens of homes, prevented tens of thousands of acres from being burned, and saved millions of dollars in potential firefighting costs. “Now these 47 new trucks, located strategically throughout the state, will further strengthen our ability to respond quickly and decisively to any wildfire,” added the Governor.

So far this year, 684 wildfires have burned 80-thousand acres of New Mexico forest, and cost approximately 5.6 million dollars to fight. Despite recent increased moisture, New Mexico remains in a severe drought cycle and the fire danger is expected to remain high for the foreseeable future.

The funds are being used to purchase 29, 2000-gallon water tanker trucks and 18 “quick attack” fire vehicles. 187 applications from 31 counties around New Mexico were received. The New Mexico energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department’s

Forestry Division and the state Fire Marshal evaluated the applications and awarded the grants.

“Our local and tribal fire departments, many of them volunteers, are New Mexico’s first lines of defense against wildfire. I pledge that I will continue to work to provide firefighters with all of the resources and training they need.”

“These new trucks will help protect our communities and make things safer for our firefighters,” said Arthur “Butch” Blazer, New Mexico State Forester. Blazer also pointed out that Native American Tribes and Pueblos were encouraged to apply for the grant money. “This is an effort to keep *all* New Mexicans safe.”

Here are the local fire departments receiving new trucks:

<u>County</u>	<u>Department</u>
Bernalillo	Los Ranchos
Catron	Horse Mountain Reserve
Chaves	District 8 Duncan
Cibola	Grants Fire and Rescue
Colfax	Philmont Angel Fire
Curry	Clovis
Doña Ana	Mesilla
Eddy	Loving
Grant	Santa Rita Sapillo Creek
Guadalupe	Vaughn
Harding	Harding #1
Hidalgo	Cotton City
Lea	Knowles
Lincoln	Bonito

Luna	Columbus
McKinley	Ft. Wingate Bluewater Acres
Mora	Buena Vista Guadalupita
Otero	Jack Rabbit Flats Sunspot
Quay	Tucumcari
Rio Arriba	Brazos Canyon Santa Clara Chamita
Roosevelt	Portales
San Juan	Bloomfield
San Miguel	Conchas Dam Rowe
Sandoval	La Cueva Corrales
Santa Fe	Hondo
Sierra	Winston Chloride Las Palomas
Socorro	San Antonio Hop Canyon
Taos	Ojo Caliente Wheeler Peak
Torrance	McIntosh
Union	Rabbit Ear Folsom
Valencia	Tome-Adelino Los Chaves

