

**2024 DRY HYDRANT INSTALLATION PROGRAM**  
**(to include manhole systems and cisterns)**  
**CONNECTICUT DIVISION OF FORESTRY**

The Division of Forestry has State Fire Assistance Funds available from the U.S. Forest Service for dry hydrant installation, also to include manhole systems and cisterns. These funds have been granted to Connecticut to help communities with projects that would lessen the risk of a wildfire disaster and improve regional preparedness. Connecticut is heavily populated and heavily forested, and rural water supply is an issue that many fire departments struggle with.

PA# 11-184, AN ACT CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF AN INLAND WETLANDS PERMIT FOR A DRY HYDRANT, will make installation of dry hydrants easier for some fire departments. (Section 1(a)7 and (b)3.) Full language can be found at <https://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/ACT/PA/2011PA-00184-R00HB-05068-PA.htm>

1. The Application for Dry Hydrant Installation will be sent upon request. **It must be returned and RECEIVED BY DEEP Forestry by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024** to be considered for this grant round. Be sure to fill out the entire form and mail it to:

CT DEEP, Division of Forestry  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Telephone: 860-982-7087 Richard Schenk

Or

Email: [deep.forestry@ct.gov](mailto:deep.forestry@ct.gov)

***If not enough applications are received and funding is still available the application period will be extended on a first come first served basis.***

2. Applications will be reviewed and ranked and fire departments will be notified of the results at the latest by **January 1, 2025** (*sooner as long as lack of snow cover permits site evaluation*).
3. A fire department may apply for up to three projects for hydrants or water systems. However, if multiple applications are sent they must be prioritized. Each hydrant/installation must have a separate application, map, installation sketch, landowner permission, etc. There is a place on the application where you may indicate your priority for each application.
4. The population in a town is not an issue. The need for a water supply is.
5. The town or fire department must pay for the hydrant installation up front, and they will be reimbursed up to 50%, but the federal share cannot be more than the amounts listed below (#6). Other federal money cannot be used as a match.
6. The grants will be awarded on a 50/50 reimbursement basis, with the maximum grant amount being:

- \$1,500 for repairs (maximum \$1,500 federal allocation)
  - \$2,000 for a standard new dry hydrant installation (maximum \$2,000 federal allocation)
  - Hydrant structures that hang from a bridge will be eligible but the maximum cost share rate will be \$400 (50/50 match, maximum \$400).
  - Maximum funding allowed for a cistern or manhole system will be \$3,000 (50/50 match, maximum \$3,000).
  - Difficult installations or installations that run two hydrant heads together may be eligible for a slightly higher reimbursement.
7. The fire department may elect to do the installation work “in-house” using the time spent as part of the match (in-kind services) or the work can be contracted. If the work is going to be in-kind services, all time spent must be well documented. In-kind services will be valued at the following rates:
- Man-hour: \$36.44/ hour (IS volunteer rate)
  - Back-hoe: \$98.35/hour (FEMA 8573)
  - Excavator: \$100.52/hour (FEMA 8282)
  - Dozer: \$103.66/hour (FEMA 8251)
- Note: Equipment time includes an operator.
8. Other expenses associated with an installation can also be used as the match (i.e. mulch, grass seed, fill, PVC pipe, glue, paint, permit fees, etc.).
9. Hydrant heads must be at least 6” in diameter. Strainers and the run piping must be 8” in diameter. They can be purchased from any vendor.
10. The fire department will be required to secure all necessary permits and get the required permission for access and use (additional information will be supplied in application packet).
11. The fire department will provide local media with information about the hydrant installation and encourage media attention. The State of Connecticut, DEEP Division of Forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service should be mentioned regarding the funding mechanism which made installation possible.
12. After the installation has been completed the fire department will submit vouchers documenting their installation expenses. This must come in the form of cancelled checks, paid invoices, or signed receipts. If work has been done in-house, an in-house completion form must be submitted.
13. After installation, the fire department must test the system to be sure it meets the minimum flow requirements. The Chief will sign that the installation was done correctly, all requirements of the permitting process were followed, and the system was tested and was in full operating order.
14. All projects must be completed by **December 31, 2025**.

**Please note: Work cannot begin until you receive an award letter from the Division of Forestry.**  
Estimated date is **January 1, 2025**.

**APPLICATION FOR  
DRY HYDRANT FUNDING**

**(Please use this same form for other water supply needs – cisterns  
or man-hole systems)**

**APPLICATIONS DUE: DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024\***

1. Fire Department Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Application for: dry hydrant  man-hole system  cistern  (# gallons \_\_\_\_\_) \*\*

Number of Applications submitted: \_\_\_\_ Priority #: \_\_\_\_

Is this hydrant going to be suspended from a bridge? Yes  No

2. Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Number: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fire Department Federal Identification Number: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Location of proposed hydrant:

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the water body: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of water body: Stream  River  Pond  Lake  Swamp

**Note:** you must provide an accurate location map with this application and the  
location must be *identified in the field with ribbons or flagging by December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024.*

5. Property owner's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**\* If not enough applications are received and funding is still available the  
application period will be extended on a first come first served basis.**

\*\* If a funding for a cistern is requested please provide documentation that this  
installation is part of a water supply plan for the area.

6. Is the proposed location of the hydrant in a: (check best answer)  
Rural/agricultural area  suburban area  industrial/business area
7. What percent of the fire department's budget comes from town taxes? \_\_\_\_\_%.
8. What was the town's Grand List for the year 2023? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Does the fire department have a written plan to lower ISO ratings? Yes  No
10. Is this hydrant installation part of that ISO plan? Yes  No
11. What is the present ISO rating for the area where this project is proposed? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Where is the next closest hydrant (dry or pressurized)/ cistern?  
Street address: \_\_\_\_\_ (please provide complete address)  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What pumping rate do you plan to get from the proposed project?  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gallons per minute  
(minimum required is 600 gallons per minute)
14. Why is this installation important to your fire department?
15. Do you think the installation will be done in-house (by members of the fire department/town crew) or will the work be done by a contractor? \_\_\_\_\_
16. For our planning purposes, please estimate the total number of dry hydrants/cisterns that your town or service area need: \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge and ability:

- This application is complete and accurate.
- We will “Call Before You Dig” at 1-800-922-4455.
- The Fire Department will secure all necessary permits.
- The Fire Department’s permit application process will include a review for any impact on Species of Special Concern.
- Matching funds will be made available.
- The Fire Department will have a written agreement with the landowner to install and maintain the dry hydrant.
- The Fire Department will contact the media and encourage media coverage of this project
- We will review the site location for Species of Concern (Rare & Endangered)

Attached is:

- A location map of the proposed project.
- A profile sketch map of proposed installation.

**PLEASE: Identify the location of the proposed hydrant in the field by **DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chief of \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department  
(signed)

Dates To Remember:

(Be sure you have adequate time to complete the project before you apply, and that you will need at least an Inland Wetlands permit.)

**December 2, 2024** – Application due and location of proposed hydrant **identified in the field with flagging/ribbon**. Send to [deep.forestry@ct.gov](mailto:deep.forestry@ct.gov) or DEEP Forestry, 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106

**January 1, 2025** – Fire Department’s notified of funding of projects by the Division of Forestry.

**December 31, 2025**- All projects must be completed.

\*\*\*\*For DEEP-owned land, the Fire Department will certify that they will seek and enter into a Dry Hydrant Agreement, to be prepared by the State of Connecticut DEEP\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*Installation cannot begin until you have written approval from the Division of Forestry\*\*\*\*