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State Fire Marshal

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 145 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5145

Phone: 651-201-7218 • Fax: 651-215-0525

www.dps.state.mn.us

Minnesota Fire Department Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer Award Program 2026/2027 Program Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027)

Firefighters, both career and volunteer/paid-on-call, experience cancer at a higher rate than those in the communities they serve. Studies continue to show that firefighters are acutely exposed to known carcinogens during structure and other fires and are continually exposed via turnout gear that is soiled due to exposure to toxic combustion byproducts.

In recent years, fire departments across Minnesota have implemented turnout gear decontamination procedures post fire events to help reduce firefighter exposure to toxic combustion byproducts. At the same time mechanical turnout gear washers/extractors have been introduced as an effective and efficient means by which firefighters can best clean their soiled turnout gear and greatly reduce their exposure to combustion byproducts. Many fire departments, however, have found commercial turnout gear washer/extractors to be cost prohibitive.

Since 2015, the first year of the Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer Award Program, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) through the State Fire Marshal (SFM) Division has awarded \$2,700,000 to 320 MN fire departments for the purchase of turnout gear washers/extractors and/or gear dryers.

A good turnout gear decontamination program should also include equipment to quickly dry turnout gear after washing so that it can be quickly returned to service. Turnout gear dryers can dry wet gear in four hours or less as opposed to the much longer "hang dry method". Wet turnout gear is difficult to don and can cause steam burns to the wearer. Also, if the decontamination process (washing/drying) can be accomplished more quickly and efficiently, firefighters will be more likely to regularly clean their gear thus leading to more healthy firefighters in the long-term.

Funding

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, with funding from the Fire Safety Account ([Sec. 299F.012 MN Statutes](#)), through the State Fire Marshal Division, has authorized a \$1,000,000 matching award program to assist eligible fire departments in the purchase of a commercial turnout gear washer/extractor and/or a gear dryer.

Award Amounts

Available funding will pay for individual awards of no more than \$10,000 for a gear washer/extractor and \$8,000 for a dryer for a maximum total of \$18,000. The type of equipment purchased will first need to meet the approval of the State Fire Marshal prior to funds being

awarded. Fire departments will indicate whether they are applying to purchase a gear washer/extractor, a dryer, or both.

Please note that the award program MAY cover the cost of a washer/extractor and a dryer. Departments applying for both a washer/extractor and a dryer may not always be awarded both.

Match Requirement

A local match of the award, as indicated below, is required. The required local match amount will be based on the population of the applicant's fire department coverage area.

Match requirement based on population:

- Population up to 10,000: 10% required match
- Population of 10,000 – 25,000: 25% required match
- Population of 25,000 – 50,000: 35% required match
- Population over 50,000: 50% required match

Program Dates

The award funds are available on a cost reimbursement basis for awardees from the executed agreement start date (anticipated to be June 2026) through June 30, 2027. Costs are reimbursed after they are incurred and paid by the awarded agencies. The awarded organization will be required to provide to the State Fire Marshal Division a written summary and documentation of all expenditures and proof of equipment installation.

Eligible Applicants

Only Minnesota fire departments that currently use the MNFIRS reporting system will be eligible to receive funds.

Any fire service agency applying for an award must include a letter from the jurisdiction indicating their intent to purchase a turnout gear washer/extractor/dryer(s). The letter must be from the governance entity (e.g. the city council, township board). A fire service agency is defined as having a fire department identification number (FDID) from the State Fire Marshal Division.

Jurisdictions of two or more, in close proximity, may submit joint applications. Awards will be made to the jurisdiction submitting the award application. The award contract must be signed by a representative of the lead jurisdiction having the legal authority to sign contracts for that jurisdiction. Legal authority may be documented by a resolution or official minutes from the jurisdiction and will be required at the time that the award contract is to be signed. It is not required for the award application.

Application Review Process

An evaluation committee will review and score the applications based on the below criteria and present a recommendation to the Commissioner of Public Safety who will make the final determination.

The Committee will consider the following factors and prioritize awards based on, but not limited to:

- Overall jurisdiction/fire department budget
- Number of firefighters
- Sets of turn out gear
- Population serviced
- Current inventory of turnout gear cleaning equipment
- Average annual number of fires

Fire departments that have not received awards in the past will be prioritized.

Award Process

Once a request has been awarded, a formal award agreement will be prepared and must be signed by the awardee organization and the Department of Public Safety. Once the signature process has been completed,

the award is considered fully executed and becomes a legally binding agreement between the awarded organization and the Department of Public Safety.

Post- Award Requirements

Reporting: Awardees will be required to submit a final report upon completion of the project that will include proof of equipment installation.

Award Payment: This is a cost reimbursement award. Awardees will only be paid for eligible expenses (after the agreement is fully executed) that are incurred and are consistent with the negotiated budget. The awardee organization will be required to provide the State Fire Marshal Division the above mentioned final report and a summary of all expenditures, including documentation on how the award and matching funds were spent prior to reimbursement.

Application Submission

A complete application packet with all required documents as noted in the application checklist must be received by **4:00 pm CST May 1, 2026** by email to fm.grants.dps@state.mn.us. Applications not received by this deadline will not be considered. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that their application is received by the deadline.

Questions

Please submit any questions regarding this program by email to Anne Olson, SFM Grants Coordinator at fm.grants.dps@state.mn.us or by phone to 651-201-7206.



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MN Fire Department Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer 2026/2027 Program Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027) Application

Please complete all fields in this application, as all requested information is required to process your application. **COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY Friday May 1, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.**

CONTRACTING AGENCY *(This is the lead agency named in the award agreement that will be responsible for the administration of the award.)*

Legal Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: MN Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL *(This is the person whose name should appear in the award agreement and who will be responsible for ensuring the terms and conditions of the agreement are met. This person does not have to have signature authority, but must be an employee of the fiscal agent cited above.)*

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

PROGRAM CONTACT *(This is the person the DPS can contact for information on the program being funded.)*

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

FISCAL CONTACT *(This is the person the DPS can contact with financial questions.)*

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail address: _____

CONTRACT CONTACT *(The person who should receive the contract packet electronically and be responsible for obtaining the correct signatures and completing the necessary forms. Note: If it is one of the individuals listed above you do not need to repeat the address and phone information.)*

Legal Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: MN Zip: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail address: _____

JOINT APPLICATION AND STATIONS

How many stations does your department have?

Is this a joint application: Yes No

If yes, please list below:

| Fire Department | Fire Department Contact |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

AWARD HISTORY

Has your department been awarded a washer/extractor/dryer award in the past: Yes No

If yes, please list below:

| Award Year | What was awarded (washer/extractor/dryer) |
|------------|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |

REQUIRED SIGNATURES

I certify that the above information is true and correct.

Signature of Municipal Clerk or City Official, **AND** Date

Signature of Fire Chief Date

PLEASE ANSWER THE REQUIRED APPLICATION QUESTIONS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

Overall jurisdiction/fire department budget (*if this is a joint application please identify overall budget for all applicants*):

Number of firefighters (*if this is a joint application please list the number of firefighters for each department separately*):

Does your department have a second set of turnout gear (*if this is a joint application or the applicant has multiple stations please list the number of turnout gear for each department/station separately*):

Population served (*if this is a joint application please list the population served for each department separately*):

Current inventory of turnout gear cleaning equipment (*if this is a joint application or the applicant has multiple stations please list the current inventory of turnout gear cleaning or drying equipment for each department/station separately*):

Average number of fires your department responds to on an annual basis (i.e. structure, car, grass, etc.):

Application is for turnout gear - check box(s):

Washer/Extractor

Dryer



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MN Fire Department Turnout Gear Washer/Extractor/Dryer 2026/2027 Program Year (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027) Application Checklist

Please make sure that you have completed all the application requirements prior to submitting your application:

1. Complete application including required signatures.
2. Answer all application questions.
3. Attach a letter from your jurisdiction indicating their intent to purchase a turnout gear washer/extractor/dryer(s).
4. Attach project cost proposal. The project proposal shall include the entire cost of the project which can include:
 - quote on proposed turnout gear washer/extractor/dryer
 - plumbing
 - electrical
 - installation

Please note that the award program **MAY** cover the cost of a washer/extractor and a dryer. A project proposal includes the cost of both a washer/extractor and a dryer will need that be noted on the original application **and** on the final project cost. Departments applying for both a washer/extractor and a dryer may not always be awarded both.

5. Submit all application materials no later than **4:00 p.m. CST on Friday May 1, 2026** via e-mail to fm.grants.dps@state.mn.us.