



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Saint-Gaudens
National Historic Site

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Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Cornish Fire Department Benefits from Rural Fire Program

On Wednesday, December 02, 2009, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site presented Nate Cass, Chief of the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department, with wildland firefighting equipment obtained through the Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) program. The \$1,588 worth of equipment presented to the Department included fire line combination tools, collapsible firefighting rakes, and forest fire council rakes.

This is the fifth RFA grant that the park has obtained on behalf of the Department since 2001. Previous awards have included \$20,000 that was used to purchase an initial attack vehicle that allows the Department to fight fires in locations that are difficult to reach because of the terrain. Other important items, such as two-way radios, fire hoses, personal protective equipment, and backpack pumps have also been acquired by the Cornish Volunteer Fire Department through this program.

The RFA grant program was created to provide funding to rural and volunteer fire departments for training, equipment, and fire prevention activities, to support fire departments involved in wildland firefighting near or on Department of the Interior lands. Firefighter safety is enhanced when local departments are fully equipped with the proper personal protective equipment and essential tools for wildland firefighting. To be eligible, a fire department must have an existing mutual aid agreement with a Department of the Interior Agency and serve a community of less than 10,000 people near federal lands. Annual awards are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 per fire department, and each department must provide a matching cost share of at least 10%, which can include in-kind services.

For further information, contact Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, 139 Saint Gaudens Road, Cornish, NH, 03745, telephone (603) 675-2175, or visit the web site at www.nps.gov/saga.

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