



FIREFIGHTER AID UKRAINE



FOREST RELEASE

Call to Action - Ukraine Wildland Firefighter Support

Introduction

Ukraine's forests are under threat from wildfires which are increasing in size and severity due to a changing climate. The State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" manages over 7.2 million hectares of public forests which provide lumber, logs, and firewood for domestic use and by the Armed Forces of Ukraine in defence of Ukraine. Over 6,000 foresters with SE "Forests of Ukraine" manage the resource and are also charged with wildfire protection. However, they are lacking in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), firefighting, inventory, and communications equipment.



Staff of the Izyum Forestry Office and FSD with Forest Release Executive Director, Dr. Brian Roth -September 12th, 2023.

Forest Release and Firefighter Aid Ukraine are teaming up to coordinate the donation and delivery of wildland firefighting PPE and equipment to foresters at SE "Forests of Ukraine".

Who is Forest Release

Co-founded in 2023 by Canadian and American foresters, **Brian Roth** and **Brian Milakovsky**, Forest Release <https://www.forestrelease.org> supports Ukrainian forest managers and users through donations of PPE, equipment, training and coordination of survey and clearance of landmines and unexploded ordinance from the forests of Ukraine. Forest Release has extensive connections within the forestry and Humanitarian Mine Action communities of North America, Europe and Ukraine.

Who is Firefighter Aid Ukraine

Established in 2014, Firefighter Aid Ukraine (FFAU) <https://www.firefighteraidukraine.com> is run by a volunteer Board and with the help of volunteers. FFAU has spent nearly a decade working with the State Emergency Services, volunteer fire brigades, and hospitals, building strong relationships across Ukraine. When the conflict started, FFAU used their trusted network to focus on the immediate delivery of critical, high value, aid to Ukraine. FFAU has delivered more than 225 tonnes of emergency response and hospital equipment to Ukraine to-date (85T before the war, the remainder since the invasion). FFAU was the first NGO in Canada to charter and send an aircraft full of aid to Ukraine. FFAU is a project under CRA registered NFP Amigo Relief Missions.



Who is the State Enterprise “Forests of Ukraine”

Established in 2022, SE "Forests of Ukraine" <https://forest.gov.ua/en> is one of the largest public forestry agencies in Europe. Through their central, regional and local offices, over 38,000 state employees manage and protect over 7.2 million ha of forests across Ukraine using standardized and transparent digital business practices.

Our Ask

Foresters in Ukraine are responsible for wildland firefighting but are lacking in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), inventory and communications equipment. We are requesting equipment donations and funding to transport and purchase equipment. Once in Ukraine, the SE “Forests of Ukraine” will distribute the equipment to forest districts in the highest need.

What is Needed

Firefighter Aid Ukraine (FFAU) and Forest Release will work with their partners to acquire the following equipment both locally and in Ukraine, and transport it to SE “forests of Ukraine” Central Office in Kyiv:

- **PPE** – various sizes (3,000 sets)
 - High visibility flame resistant (Nomex) coveralls (yellow, red, orange)
 - Helmets
 - Goggles
 - Masks (N95)
 - Boots
 - Gloves
- **Communications** – emergency communications radios
 - Base Station (4)
 - Two-way fire truck mounted radios (30)
 - Two-way handheld radios (300)
- **Wildfire suppression equipment**
 - High pressure portable pumps (40)
 - Pulaski (400)
 - Fire rake (250)
 - Chainsaw (40)
- **Vehicles**
 - Pick-up trucks – new or used (12)
 - ATV/Quad – new or used (35)



Donations of equipment no longer used or required by organizations are welcomed as well as financial donations that will allow us to purchase new equipment.

Logistics

Donations will be accepted by FFAU at their Edmonton, Alberta warehouse (10658 – 108 street NW) by appointment or arrangements can be made for other locations in North America. Equipment will be shipped from North America by container or airplane or will be purchased from providers in Europe. FFAU will utilise the relationships that it's developed with Flexport, and Osteuropahilfe for logistics. State Enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" will provide distribution within Ukraine.

Timeline

Donations can be received immediately and will be shipped in tranches. The goal is to have all donations distributed prior to the beginning of the next wildfire season in the Spring of 2024.

For further information contact:

<p>Kevin Royle Director, Firefighter Aid Ukraine Email: director@ffau.ca Ph. +1(780) 887-5387</p>	<p>Brian Roth Executive Director, Forest Release Email: brian.roth@forestrelease.org Ph. +1(780)709-1393</p>
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