

Sample Grant Writing Information for Porta-CAFS®

Our fire department is seeking to maximize our limited resources to increase our fire fighting ability and protect structures and wildlife in the wildland urban interface. We have been aware of the well documented benefits of compressed air foam for some time, but the cost has been prohibitive for our community. There is a new compressed air foam system that is now available at a fraction of the cost of a traditional system. Porta-CAFS is a portable compressed air foam system that produces compressed air foam utilizing new technology.

The new technology implemented in Porta-CAFS can provide our department with all of the following benefits:

- Keep fire fighters at a safe distance with a 90' reach
- Minimize exposure to fire fighters and property damage at the fire scene with 3 to 5 times faster knock down than water alone
- Make excellent use of our limited water supply with the 20:1 foam to water ratio
- Fight fire more effectively with foam by reducing the surface tension of water, providing longer drain times, allowing deeper penetration
- Utilize 90% of the fire-fighting stream instead of just 10% of the stream when using water alone
- Blanket a structure or wildlife in the face of a wildfire with a protective layer of fire resistant foam
- Suppress dangerous vapors with foam
- Capture sparks and suspended embers with foam
- Use less overall manpower for overhaul due to pre-soaking which naturally occurs during initial attack with foam
- Improve response time by utilizing tank water instead of needing to set up at the hydrant and run supply lines
- Maintain the integrity of the fire scene using environmentally safe foam instead of highly destructive water
- Reduce scene run-off of potential carcinogens and debris

Porta-CAFS is unique in that it can provide our community all of these benefits without having to retrofit our existing apparatus with an expensive CAFS system. Most truck mounted units will provide compressed air foam at a cost of \$200 per CFM (cubic ft per minute) of foam produced. Porta-CAFS produces the same foam at a cost of approximately \$6 per CFM.

The other aspect of Porta-CAFS that we appreciate is the ease of operation. Most CAFS are complex and require in depth training to operate effectively. Porta-CAFS back pack blower straps on to one of our fire fighters. Then we attach a 1" or 1-1/2" hose with the foam and water mixture which is supplied by _____ (our onboard foam system OR a pre-mixed batch tank) and turn on the nozzle. We can adjust the foam production to be wet or dry depending on if we are using it to fight fire or protect a structure. It weighs approximately 26 pounds and does not require any special high pressure fire hose.

If we are able to obtain a Porta-CAFS we plan to use it during initial attacks on vehicle fires, marine fires and dumpster fires as well as wildfires. We can also use it for indirect attack on a structural fire at a distance of up to 90 feet.

It is rare when one piece of equipment can have such a big impact on a community. With that in mind we respectfully request funding to purchase a Porta-CAFS which is available immediately from our local dealer _____ (see www.portacafs.com or call 631-924-3181)