



# RURAL FIRE SUPPRESSION PLANNING

## TASK

Help the local Fire Department and/or Planning Boards gather information and develop a town-wide Fire Suppression Plan.

## DESCRIPTION

A Rural Fire Suppression Plan for a town will help it inventory all available water supply points and their locations. This list can note reliability and supply time. The town and the fire department can use the plan to prioritize development locations and plan expenditures for fire suppression supply points.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Useful plan for local citizens and administrators to plan expenditures of funds for protection of residential and forest lands within the town.
- Map of water supply points good for listing draft sites in different parts of the town.
- Long term goals of the town can be carried on even with changes in fire department personnel.

## GUIDELINES

- Review the town's firefighting equipment and size, and goals for protecting the town.
- The inventory of possible supply sites should include the following information:
  - Note if the source can supply water year-round or only in the summer months.

- Determine maximum reliable water supply and minimum pumping time for available supply.
- Location of supply sites along roads and off roads.  
Base the inventory on field reconnaissance throughout the town.
- Verify the inventory data using resource and USGS maps and look for possible remote supply sites.

- Assess the reliability and usability of each inventoried site along with costs to develop using the Site Evaluation Worksheet.
- Prepare an overall Inventory Summary Sheet of sites displayed on a town map along with an index to the worksheets.
- Consider digitizing locations on GIS system or enhanced 911 system.
- Help the town in setting up a priority schedule for developing new water supply sites by providing site specific details.
- Be sure the town understands the minimal impact wetlands permit and 404 permit system for developing water supply sites. (See Quick Guide on Water Resource Regulations).
- The plan should be reviewed and updated each year with the County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service and a schedule of inspection and test pumping of dry hydrants developed.
- Develop cost estimates of anticipated site developments each year after plan review and before budget hearings.

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## REFERENCES

- Planning for Water Supply and Distribution in the Wildland/Urban Interface. Publication # NSES 2295  
Available from: National Interagency Fire Center, 3833 South Development Ave., Boise, Idaho, 83705

## WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

- County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (*See Directory*)
- New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development  
Division of Forests and Lands  
Forest Protection Bureau  
P.O. Box 1856, Concord, NH 03302-1856,  
(603) 271-2217.

- University of New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension  
Forestry and Wildlife Program  
121 Taylor Hall, 59 College Road,  
Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-2619, or  
contact the UNH Cooperative Extension  
office in your county. (*See Directory*)
- Regional Planning Commissions (GIS  
mapping) (*See Directory*)
- Resource Conservation and Development  
Area Councils (*See Directory*)
- The National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park, P.O. Box 9101,  
Quincy Mass., 02269-9101 (617) 770-3000





**SITE EVALUATION WORKSHEET**  
**WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL FIRE SUPPRESSION**

Site Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Site Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town and or Community

<b>1. Location of site</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>2. Owners</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>3. Water resources at the site</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>4. Type of development needed</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>5. Soil information</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>6. Cost estimate of development</b> _____ _____ _____ _____
<b>7. Other</b> _____ _____ _____ _____