

SAMPLE GRANT RECENTLY APPROVED FOR A VERY LARGE STORZ HYDRANT CONVERTER PROJECT IN 2011 & 2012

This sample grant is for conceptual purposes and only used as a guide.
Copying of this grant as an application is not allowed and would be denied.

Project Description

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS GRANT REQUEST

This is a regional grant request from the Fire Departments, in the Towns of _____, _____ and _____ to purchase and install Storz hydrant conversions, to every fire hydrant in the Towns of _____, _____, _____, and _____. We all provide mutual aid to each other and have realized that each of the town's hydrant outlet nozzle threads have different size and thread configurations, depending on when and who installed them.

The four fire departments would like to correct this regional water supply problem. We have developed a regional plan for water supply in our communities and it doesn't only improve our response with each other. It will benefit any town or city in _____ County if they are called to assist any of us with mutual aid. All of the departments in our region use five inch large diameter hose and if we adapt our hydrants to the five inch Storz, they will all be interoperable with us.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Some of the hydrants use two 2 1/2 "nozzles only, the rest use two 2 1/2 "nozzles and one steamer port. The steamer port configurations we are finding are 3 1/2" NH, 4" NH, 4 1/2" NH, and 4" NPT (National Pipe Thread). Each town has adapters on there engines, for the hydrants in their town only and they adapt to a 5" Storz fitting for a five inch water supply. Often, we are called out, for mutual aid and we are asked to hook to a hydrant, for a five inch water supply. The engine will stop at the hydrant and drop off the end of the hose, a hydrant bag, a couple of firefighters and then lay hose down to the fire, which may be 500' to 1000' before anyone realizes that they don't have the proper hydrant adapter. Valuable time is lost, Engines are running low of water, and firefighter lives are in danger.

Large Diameter Hose with Storz connections have quickly become a fire industry standard. The conversion of existing threaded fire hydrants to quick quarter turn Storz connections is becoming one of the first steps that communities are taking in a quest toward, quicker response time and interoperability.

Storz hydrants, with their quarter-turn connect/disconnect, are replacing the older threaded style hydrant because quick connections are so critical in saving lives and property. With the Department of Homeland Security and insurance companies stressing the need for fire equipment inter-operability for mutual aid, communities are converting their existing hydrants rather than complete replacement, saving thousands of dollars.

The hydrant conversion process, a 10 minute field retro-fit, involves replacing standard threaded fire hydrant connections with quarter turn Storz connections. After converting, fire departments can quickly and easily attach Storz equipment directly to the hydrant. The cost of the installation will be absorbed by the public works department in all four towns. The public works directors agree that the standardization of the existing hydrants is also benefit to them and as they are routinely maintaining their hydrants, the Storz conversions can be installed at that time. All of our communities already have their public works specifications state that all new and replacement hydrants be installed with the Storz fitting on them.

Another problem fire fighters face is just trying to locate the closest fire hydrant to the incident in the dark. These caps are yet another step in improving and speeding up the process of accessing fire hydrants in critical situations. We will purchase the Storz fittings to include reflective powder coat, making it easier and quicker to locate a hydrant in the dark.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Regional project is a straight foreword, no nonsense type of project. With the water supply during mutual aid incidents a problem and the need to expedite water supply during normal pumping operations, the simple conversion of our fire hydrants is the answer.

_____ Fire Department	793 Hydrants
_____ Fire Department	453 Hydrants
_____ Fire Department	1037 Hydrants
_____ Fire Department	1069 Hydrants
	3352 Hydrants Total

We will order 3352 – 5” Storz Permanent Hydrant Conversion Fittings @ \$____. each \$____,____.
 This will assist us with our regional approach for water supply. It will also help meet our statutory compliance with NFPA 1963, 2009 Edition, Standard for Fire Hose Connection.

FINANCIAL NEED

This project will save firefighters and our citizens from severe injury and even death, by providing a quick, quarter turn 5” discharge to a large diameter hose, feeding our fire apparatus. Funding for this project has not been forthcoming from other sources for a number of reasons.

_____ County remains the only one of the state’s 92 counties without a local income tax and the Governor and the legislature passed tax caps to 1% for residential, 2% for rental, and 3% for commercial properties, and this created a "gap" between what government would normally have levied and what it will get. Our four Towns tax levy were frozen to the 2007 level along with the rest of the county and local government, amounting to a \$367 million decrease in local property tax income.

In the last few years, the property tax bills have been sent out months late and the towns have had to borrow money until they receive their money from the county and we have had to pay back the loan with an interest charge. This interest charge, has also added an unexpected expense to our already tight budget.

In 2006, 2007 and again in 2008, all four of our towns suffered massive urban flooding that severely damaged or destroyed over 1200 homes in _____, _____, _____, and _____. In August of 2008 a Category 2 tornado touched down in a portion of _____ and winds from this tornado uprooted many trees along its path in _____ and _____. Many houses were damaged by the falling limbs and up rooted trees and the clean up costs to the towns was over \$1,000,000.00.

These nationally declared emergencies placed extreme financial hardships on our communities. All of our towns have been diverting funds toward infrastructure repair and legal fees. This funding has reduced or eliminated revenue for other capital projects such as the 5” Storz/hydrant project.

All of our communities have many capital projects under way now and more ready to start, as we are into the construction season. Most of these projects are road and intersection reconstruction projects and they will take priority over the hydrant conversion.

COST VS. BENEFITS

This funding is very important to our towns, because we are struggling with a huge debt due to the wind storms, tornado and the flooding of 2008. This grant will provide us with the necessary funding to purchase the Storz Fitting adapters.

Storz hydrants, with their quarter-turn connect/disconnect, are replacing the older threaded style hydrant because quick connections are so critical in saving lives and property. With the Department of Homeland Security and insurance companies stressing the need for fire equipment inter-operability for mutual aid, communities are converting their existing hydrants rather than complete replacement, saving thousands of dollars.

The conversion of 100% of our hydrants will improve our towns ISO rating, which not only helps the towns, but it also helps our homeowners and business owners with the cost of insurance.

EFFECTS ON DAILY OPERATIONS

We have mentioned many times throughout this request the continued quick water supply through the usage of these 5” Storz Conversion. This system will pay dividends for our members and the citizens for many years to come on every response we make.

Large Diameter Hose with Storz connections have quickly become a fire industry standard. The conversion of existing threaded fire hydrants to quick quarter turn Storz connections is becoming one of the first steps that communities are taking in a quest toward, quicker response time and interoperability between the various responding departments.

CONCLUSION

The following is a list of critical infrastructures in our communities that will be impacted by quicker and more effective water supply:

Five petroleum storage and transfer facilities, including Marathon, Texas Eastern, Enbridge, Buckeye, and Lakehead. The BP Dome storage facility, the largest underground L/P gas storage cavern in the Midwest.

Twenty three underground pipelines. (more per capita than any other towns in Indiana)

The _____ Airport, which is an emergency runway for jets diverted from Gary Regional Airport, Chicago O’Hare International Airport, or Chicago Midway Airports.

The American Chemical plant

The Northern Indiana Public Service Gas Distribution and Odorization Plant

Two large electrical distribution substations.

Three railroads—one that runs along the entire southern border and one that bisects the Town from north to south

Amtrak Train

Three Hospitals

Five nursing home

Seven residential care facilities

U.S. Highway 41—the primary north-south alternative to Interstate 65 between Chicago and Indianapolis

Indiana Route 912. The major route to steel mills, refineries, propane gas distribution.

Four large garden apartment complexes

1500 acres of nature preserve that interfaces with four large subdivisions, a railroad right of way and a major electric substation

We strive to be proactive organizations, whenever safety issues are discovered. This Storz Hydrant Conversion allows for a positive approach to reducing a major risk in fire and emergency response.

We feel that our Regional grant request is the type project this grant was designed to help. The demands on our department are increasing disproportionate to our tax revenues and we lack the resources to supply our firefighters with the training and equipment they need and deserve. We thank you for your support and would like to express our appreciation for the opportunities this grant would provide.

