

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2894

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide assistance to firefighting task forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Mrs. LOWEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Administrator of the United States Fire Administration to provide assistance to firefighting task forces, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Firefighters Special  
5 Operation Task Force Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR FIREFIGHTING TASK FORCES.**

2 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974  
3 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 38. ASSISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTING TASK FORCES.**

6 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term  
8 ‘critical infrastructure’ has the meaning given that  
9 term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastruc-  
10 tures Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

11 “(2) FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL.—The term  
12 ‘firefighting personnel’ has the meaning given that  
13 term in section 33(a).

14 “(3) INCIDENT RESPONSE.—The term ‘incident  
15 response’ means a response by a task force or task  
16 force unit to—

17 “(A) a terrorist attack, including such an  
18 attack that utilizes a weapon of mass destruc-  
19 tion;

20 “(B) a release of a hazardous material;

21 “(C) a natural disaster; or

22 “(D) any other emergency for which a re-  
23 sponse by a fire service is appropriate.

24 “(4) MEMBER.—The term ‘member’, with re-  
25 spect to a task force, means a fire service that is a

1 party to the cooperative agreement establishing the  
2 task force.

3 “(5) TASK FORCE.—The term ‘task force’  
4 means 2 or more fire services that collectively con-  
5 sist of at least 50 firefighting personnel, operating  
6 pursuant to a cooperative agreement for the purpose  
7 of coordinating incident response among such fire  
8 services.

9 “(b) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may  
10 award not more than 100 grants for task forces each fiscal  
11 year for the purposes described in subsection (c).

12 “(c) PURPOSES.—A grant awarded under this section  
13 shall be used—

14 “(1) to provide salary and benefits to hire fire-  
15 fighting personnel or rehire firefighting personnel  
16 who have been laid off to provide services to the task  
17 force, including salary and benefits;

18 “(2) to pay expenses related to the participation  
19 of firefighting personnel in appropriate training  
20 courses;

21 “(3) to provide training related to incident re-  
22 sponse to firefighting personnel;

23 “(4) to obtain appropriate equipment, including  
24 firefighting vehicles or support systems for members  
25 of the task force;

1           “(5) to improve the ability of a member of a  
2 task force to communicate with a local police depart-  
3 ment or hospital, or with any other appropriate gov-  
4 ernmental or private sector entity; and

5           “(6) to ensure the compatibility and interoper-  
6 ability of training and equipment with those ob-  
7 tained by other task forces.

8           “(d) APPLICATION GUIDANCE.—The Administrator  
9 shall make available to potential applicants for assistance  
10 under this section a description of a model task force con-  
11 figuration, which shall include—

12           “(1) an administrative unit, consisting of 2  
13 chief officers, 2 captains, and 2 lieutenants, to co-  
14 ordinate training programs, logistics, and mainte-  
15 nance of equipment, which shall operate at least 40  
16 hours per week;

17           “(2) a command unit, consisting of 1 chief offi-  
18 cer serving as the task force commander and 1 fire-  
19 fighter serving as communications coordinator,  
20 which shall operate at all times;

21           “(3) at least 1 hazardous materials company,  
22 consisting of 1 company officer and 5 firefighters,  
23 which shall operate at all times;

1           “(4) at least 1 rescue company, consisting of 1  
2           company officer and 5 firefighters, which shall oper-  
3           ate at all times; and

4           “(5) 6 squad companies, each consisting of 1  
5           company officer and 5 firefighters, which shall oper-  
6           ate at all times, and which may serve, as appro-  
7           priate, as a hazardous materials company or rescue  
8           company as described in paragraphs (3) and (4).

9           “(e) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each task  
10          force desiring assistance under this section shall submit  
11          an application to the Administrator at such time, in such  
12          manner, and accompanied by such information as the Ad-  
13          ministrators may reasonably require. In order to qualify for  
14          a grant, an applicant’s proposal shall provide for—

15                 “(1) prompt incident response;

16                 “(2) a unified command system;

17                 “(3) common training and equipment for task  
18          force members;

19                 “(4) maximum coverage in the task force re-  
20          gion, taking into account population, business cen-  
21          ters, vital infrastructures, transportation corridors,  
22          and government centers; and

23                 “(5) preservation during the life of the grant of  
24          the overall personnel level for each fire service, at

1 least at the level in effect at the time the application  
2 was submitted.

3 “(f) SELECTION PRIORITY.—In selecting a task force  
4 to receive assistance under this section, the Administrator  
5 shall give priority to task forces that serve a geographic  
6 area that—

7 “(1) has a high population density; or

8 “(2) is located not more than 50 miles from—

9 “(A) a facility that produces nuclear  
10 power;

11 “(B) a large facility that produces, treats,  
12 or refines chemicals or petroleum products;

13 “(C) a business district of national signifi-  
14 cance; or

15 “(D) a location with one or more critical  
16 infrastructures.

17 “(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Administrator  
18 may provide assistance to a task force under this section  
19 for a fiscal year only if the task force agrees to obtain  
20 from non-Federal sources for such fiscal year at least 55  
21 percent of the costs of the task force. The non-Federal  
22 contributions may be in-kind contributions, including per-  
23 sonnel, personnel overtime, vehicles, equipment, adminis-  
24 trative costs, fuel, maintenance, contractor services, and  
25 rental space.

1       “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to  
3 carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for  
4 each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2020.”.

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