



**Benefit Advantages for Emergency Responders
was awarded**

\$2,079,500

**For a New Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response
(SAFER) grant to assist California fire departments with
Retention & Recruitment of Volunteer Emergency Responders.**



For more information, please visit

VOLUNTEERFIREFIGHTER.ORG | [855.VOL.FIRE](tel:855.VOL.FIRE)

THE NEW BAER SAFER GRANT CONSISTS OF:

Training

- Leadership development workshops for fire service leaders will be offered each year. Training topics include recruitment and retention with a focus on recruiting women, minorities and younger generations. Travel for the attendees is reimbursable (i.e. lodging, per diem, and mileage)!
- First Responder, EMT, FFI, or FF2 training expenses including travel to attend training. In exchange for a two-year commitment to a recognized volunteer or combination fire department in the State of California, we will reimburse Volunteer Firefighters who successfully complete a State authorized Fire Training up to \$2,500 each.

New Member Costs

Significant costs to fire departments and new recruits is providing physicals and personal protective equipment. The new SAFER Grant will provide the following:

- The cost to provide an NFPA 1582 compliant entry level physical for new recruits up to \$750
- The cost to provide a full set of structural or wildland personal protective equipment for new recruits up to \$4,325 per set once they have passed the NFPA 1582 physical.

Continuing from our 2021 SAFER Grant

Accident/injury insurance and disability (loss of wages) protection and Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance coverage

Effective January 2027, the BAER SAFER Grant is providing funding for a AD&D insurance policy plus accident/injury income replacement coverage for every CA Volunteer Emergency Responder. Included in this policy is a 24- Hour AD&D coverage and a First Responder Assistance Program for all Active Members.

This benefit program will attempt to meet the needs of Volunteer Emergency Responders in order to provide an incentive for them to remain active with the department. These benefits will only apply to active, permanent members in good standing with their department who qualify for this benefit by meeting department training and response requirements. This retention incentive is available to every CA Volunteer Emergency Responder throughout the State.

Fire Service Association Memberships

Fire departments unable to cover the cost of fire service association dues are now eligible to have these dues fully funded through the BAER SAFER Grant.

Membership in associations like NVFC offer valuable individual benefits such as a \$10,000 AD&D policy, training discounts and additional perks for Volunteer Emergency Responders. The BAER SAFER Grant will cover dues for California Volunteer Emergency Responders in associations including BAER, NVFC, FDAC, and Cal Chiefs.

Local Recruitment Marketing Materials

To assist in the recruitment efforts throughout the state, BAER has launched an integrated marketing campaign consisting of the following:

- Interactive Websites - www.VolunteerFirefighter.org and www.BomberoVoluntario.org
- Customized Recruitment Materials with Your Department Logo
- Social Media Ads (Facebook, Instagram, ect)
- YouTube Advertisements
- Plus, Other Creative Avenues

All marketing campaigns will direct those interested in Volunteering to VolunteerFirefighter.org, where potential recruits can complete and submit a form with their basic information. This form will be instantly distributed to every Volunteer Department within their county.

Period of Performance: 12/23/2025 - 12/22/2029

★ ★ ★ WHAT IS YOUR ROLE? ★ ★ ★

To maximize the funding, we ask that you work with us over the next 4 years by doing the following:

1. Ensure you are on the contact list & are receiving leads from individuals in your county.
2. Immediately contact potential recruits & educate them about your volunteer program.
3. Schedule the BAER Team to present these grant benefits at your County Chiefs meeting.
4. Respond to all surveys conducted by the BAER Grant Manager.
5. Provide BAER with an up-to-date roster of your active volunteers to assure eligibility for the AD&D Coverage.



If your department/local association would like a visit to learn more,
Contact: Carly@volunteerfirefighter.org

