

**Discovery Search**

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**From:** "Conner, Donna" <Donna.Conner@southkingfire.org>  
**Date:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:38 AM  
**To:** "Breedlove, Diane (CTR)" <Diane.Breedlove@associates.fema.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: SAFER Question EMW-2011-FH-00114 South King Fire & Rescue  
 Thank you so very much for you time and assistance!

COPIED

**From:** Breedlove, Diane (CTR) [mailto:Diane.Breedlove@associates.fema.dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:36 AM  
**To:** Conner, Donna  
**Cc:** Ipsen, Brian  
**Subject:** RE: SAFER Question EMW-2011-FH-00114 South King Fire & Rescue

These SAFER grants can be complicated! In general, extending the Period of Performance is only done at the end of the two years when there's been some unforeseeable or unpreventable delay in hiring. To my knowledge we've not extended a grant right at the beginning since we don't then know how much time using the money will actually require.

Your department's 2011 grant application was for attrition—that is, filling positions already lost due to normal resignations, retirements, terminations. That was the second hiring priority. The first hiring priority was for re-hiring laid off firefighters. If, in fact, the department anticipates laying off firefighters in December you'll want to think very carefully about accepting this grant because laying off any firefighters after a SAFER grant has been awarded is a reason for a default. AND SAFER funds can only be used to hire new firefighters if it was awarded for attrited positions. You couldn't use SAFER hiring funds after the grant is awarded for firefighters already on the payroll.

That being said, you might consider applying again for 2012. That application period may open in July which would make awards begin in September and October. There's a 90 day recruitment period after you're awarded but before the Period of Performance begins. That might make the timing right. If you know for certain that in January the department will issue layoff notices you can apply to retain firefighters scheduled to be laid off which would then be exactly what you want to do.

If South King Fire & Rescue were to receive a grant for 2011 I strongly recommend they discuss fully the situation with our staff before accepting the award. The department would not want to find out after receiving funds that they were outside the grant rules!

If you have additional questions, please let me know. We know it's a terrible time economically and want to help departments as best we are able.

Diane

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**From:** Conner, Donna [<mailto:Donna.Conner@southkingfire.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:42 AM  
**To:** 'diane.breedlove@associates.dhs.gov'  
**Subject:** SAFER Question

Good Morning Diane,

Hope all is well in your world.

Brian Ipsen referred me to you regarding this **hypothetical question about SAFER**. We like other departments are trying to stabilize our funding so we can stay in business however a levy that we put before the voters in March just failed. This is the second levy in two years which has failed and this one was a squeaker. There is a 60% passing rate and we got 59.30%, so we are all pretty bummed here.

Anyway, my administration is putting together a Plan B which includes hoping for a SAFER award. However my administration has told the union membership that if we get awarded for 2011 SAFER that they are going to ask for an extension right away. As it's written in the guidelines, I interpret it to mean that one asks for an extension when the project has been implemented but there is a problem getting it finished on time. I'm not quite sure but I think they are going to try to accept the award but then ask for an extension right away before starting it so that when the layoffs become reality in January they can keep those firefighters that will be affected on the job.

In my interpretation that is not how it's done – once you accept the award you must implement your project and then if there is a problem they will consider your extension request for adjusting the period of performance.

I realize that this is putting the cart before the horse here as we don't have a SAFER Award in hand, but I don't want to give anyone unrealistic hopes. So any light you can shed on this question will be Greatly Appreciated.

Thank you for ALL that you do!

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