



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Fire District Receives \$40,000 Federal Grant

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently awarded a \$40,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to the Darien-Woodridge Fire District.

The grant, written by Battalion Chief Maggio, will allow the Fire District to replace a 15-year-old air compressor. This device is used to refill the self-contained breathing apparatus that firefighters use when entering smoke filled atmospheres. The existing unit has twice the usage hours of a normal compressor, due to it also being used for a regional training academy and as a back-up system for surrounding departments.

The new compressor will be a larger unit that can fill air bottles 30% faster, thereby eliminating down time of personnel and vehicles. A larger compressor will also reduce wear and tear, compared to the older unit, which will reduce routine maintenance costs.

This grant is a matching grant, meaning that FEMA will provide \$36,000 and the Fire District's share is \$4,000. The AFG awards will ultimately provide approximately \$560 million to fire departments and emergency medical service organizations throughout the country. The grants enable local departments to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

Since 2002, AFG has provided over \$3.6 billion in grants to fire departments and first responder organizations. This is the second FEMA grant the Fire District has received.

The AFG is administered cooperatively by two FEMA components: the Grants Program Directorate and the United States Fire Administration. The full list of FY 2008 AFG recipients and other information is posted on the AFG website (www.firegrantsupport.com).

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