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CHICAGOLAND FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVE MORE THAN \$500,000 FROM FIREMAN'S FUND INSURANCE COMPANY

Funding Benefits More Than 30 Fire Departments; Chicago Fire Department Receives First-of-Its-Kind Fire Safety House

CHICAGO, April 28, 2005 – Fireman's Fund Insurance Company today announced it is awarding fire agencies throughout the Chicagoland area with more than \$500,000 in grants and donations for firefighting equipment, firefighter training, community fire safety education, fire safety tools and community emergency response programs.

In response to fire service funding challenges, Fireman's Fund created Fireman's Fund HeritageSM, the company's long-term philanthropic mission to support firefighters for safer communities. Through this program, Fireman's Fund, its network of independent agents and employees provide grants and volunteer support to local fire departments, national firefighter organizations and fire and burn prevention non-profit organizations.

In Chicagoland, Fireman's Fund is awarding 28 grants totaling \$400,000 to fire departments in the Illinois counties of Cook, Lake, DuPage and Will. The grants, which will impact more than 30 fire departments, were awarded through a request for proposal process that began in February. Ninety-seven of the 150 eligible fire departments submitted proposals, which totaled more than \$2 million in funding requests.

In addition to individual grants, Fireman's Fund is awarding the City of Chicago Fire Department a first-of-its-kind mobile fire safety house worth \$138,000. The new fire safety house incorporates design and technology that will enhance the department's fire safety education outreach efforts and will increase the number of local citizens who can receive life saving training. It will also complement the department's existing public outreach activities by providing residents, and particularly children, with hands-on fire and burn prevention training.

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“As an insurance company, we share a common goal with fire departments – to protect our communities,” said Chuck Kavitsky, Fireman's Fund president and chief executive officer. “The Fireman's Fund Heritage program draws upon our company's unique founding mission to give back to the firefighters who help safeguard our homes, businesses and lives.”

Fireman's Fund's support of Chicagoland firefighters will go beyond this wave of funding. Local independent agents, based on the size and growth of their business with the company, are empowered to direct grants for their local fire departments. Chicago-based Fireman's Fund employees also can nominate their local fire departments for grants and are encouraged to volunteer with neighborhood fire departments and non-profits focused on fire and burn prevention.

Fireman's Fund has a longstanding history in Chicago. It was one of only a few companies based outside of Illinois to pay every claim following the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Today, the company has more than 400 employees in the Chicago area at offices in Chicago and Lisle, Ill., as well as numerous independent agents who offer Fireman's Fund insurance products.

Grant Recipients

In addition to the fire safety trailer donated to the Chicago Fire Department, Fireman's Fund awarded 28 individual grants totaling \$400,000 to paid and volunteer departments throughout Chicagoland, specifically in Cook, Lake, DuPage and Will Counties. The following is a list of these grant recipients:

- *Cook County – \$163,799 in grants*
 - **Burnham Volunteer Fire Department**, Burnham, Ill. - \$16,125 for radios and pagers
 - **Calumet Park Fire Department**, Calumet Park, Ill. - \$9,500 for a thermal imaging camera
 - **Chicago Ridge Fire Department**, Chicago Ridge, Ill. - \$10,500 for a thermal imaging camera
 - **LaGrange Area Medication Distribution Group** (Pleasantview Fire Protection District, LaGrange Park Fire Department, LaGrange Fire Department and Western Springs Fire Department) - \$9,555 for communications interoperability system for emergency command center
 - **Mount Prospect Fire Department**, Mount Prospect, Ill. - \$1,953 for an educational puppet show
 - **Riverdale Fire Department**, Riverdale, Ill. - \$11,710 for a thermal imaging camera and accessories
 - **Schiller Park Fire Department**, Schiller Park, Ill. - \$22,000 for extrication equipment

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- **South Holland Fire Department**, South Holland, Ill. - \$10,810 for mask-mounted voice amplifiers
- **Summit Fire Department**, Summit, Ill. - \$27,000 for turnout gear and a thermal imaging camera
- **Stone Park Fire Department**, Stone Park, Ill. - \$24,246 for firefighting equipment
- **Western Springs Department of Fire and EMS**, Western Springs, Ill. - \$8,400 for a thermal imaging camera
- **Willow Springs Fire Department**, Willow Springs, Ill. - \$12,000 for a thermal imaging camera

- *DuPage County –\$47,880 in grants*
 - **Bloomington Fire Protection District**, Bloomington, Ill. - \$1,540 for residential emergency key boxes
 - **Clarendon Hills Fire Department**, Clarendon Hills, Ill. - \$6,000 for personal rescue escape kits
 - **Darien-Woodridge Fire Protection District**, Darien, Ill. - \$11,340 for rescue packs
 - **Lombard Fire Department**, Lombard, Ill. - \$10,655 for a smoke detector outreach program
 - **Glenside Fire Protection District**, Glendale Heights, Ill. - \$2,710 for carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and batteries
 - **West Chicago Fire Protection District**, West Chicago, Ill. - \$15,635 for pneumatic lifting bags and rescue tools

- *Lake County – \$109,500 in grants*
 - **Combined Area Fire Training (CAFT)**, grant will impact four fire agencies (Buffalo Grove Fire Department, Long Grove Fire Department, Lincolnshire/River Woods Fire Department and Wheeling Fire Department) - \$80,000 for a live fire training facility
 - **Gurnee Fire Department**, Gurnee, Ill. - \$13,500 for a portable fire extinguisher training simulator
 - **Libertyville Fire Department**, Libertyville, Ill. - \$16,000 for turnout gear

- *Will County – \$78,821 in grants*
 - **Beecher Fire Protection District**, Beecher, Ill. - \$17,500 for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) face pieces and SCBA upgrade kits
 - **Channahon Fire Protection District**, Channahon, Ill. - \$6,856 for eight walkie-talkies
 - **Crete Fire Department**, Crete, Ill. - \$21,060 for air packs and spare tanks

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- **Frankfort Fire District**, Frankfort, Ill. - \$4,604 for three automated external defibrillators (AEDs)
- **Manhattan Fire Department**, Manhattan, Ill. - \$9,501 for rescue tools
- **Northwest Homer Fire Protection District**, Homer Glen, Ill. - \$9,300 for a thermal imaging camera
- **Peotone Fire Protection District**, Peotone, Ill. - \$10,000 for a thermal imaging camera

Fireman's Fund agents and employees play a critical role in the Fireman's Fund Heritage program. A special task force comprised of local Fireman's Fund employees and independent agents evaluated all grant applications to determine which departments would receive a portion of the dollars made available for funding. An outside advisory committee comprised of fire chiefs from the surrounding region provided technical advice to the task force.

"The overwhelming response we received of 97 proposals totaling more than \$2 million in funding requests illustrates the need for additional fire equipment and training in the area," said John Evans, regional underwriting executive for Fireman's Fund Midwest operations. "Our employees and agents here in Chicagoland are excited to be able to support our firefighters through this much-needed funding."

About Fireman's Fund Heritage

Fireman's Fund has a long history of supporting the fire service. Fireman's Fund was founded in 1863 with the mission to allocate a portion of its profits to the widows and orphans of fallen firefighters. Through Fireman's Fund Heritage, which was launched in 2004, Fireman's Fund, its agency network and its employees award grants for the purchase of equipment, fire prevention tools, firefighter training, fire safety education and community emergency response programs.

The Fireman's Fund Heritage program also supports firefighters through partnerships with national firefighter organizations, such as the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

About Fireman's Fund

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal, commercial, and specialty insurance products nationwide. Based in Novato, Calif., Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group, one of the world's largest providers of property and casualty insurance and other financial services. For more information about the company or the Fireman's Fund Heritage program, visit www.firemansfund.com.

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