



**COMPANY AWARDS \$1 MILLION
TO SAN DIEGO FIREFIGHTERS AND THE BURN INSTITUTE**

SAN DIEGO, Calif., April 6, 2004 – San Diego County fire departments and fire and burn prevention organizations will receive more than \$1 million this year through Fireman's Fund HeritageSM, a community-based corporate giving program launched by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company (FFIC) that supports firefighters for safer communities.

FFIC chose San Diego for the program based on the firefighting needs in the area and because of the Company's strong local base of employees, agents and customers. The county is the first region to participate in this national initiative, which ties to the Company's founding social mission from 1863.

To commemorate the launch, Fireman's Fund Chief Executive Officer Jeff Post and local FFIC executives presented the first grants of more than \$500,000 to local fire departments in a ceremony at the Firehouse Museum in downtown San Diego. These grants will provide needed equipment, fire prevention tools and necessary training for local fire departments, as well as community fire safety education.

Grants totaling \$505,042 were awarded to 16 volunteer and paid departments throughout San Diego County including a major grant to the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department for a two-year Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The following is a full list of the grant recipients:

- **Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District**, Bonita, Calif. - \$12,000 for communications equipment
- **Campo Fire and Rescue**, Campo, Calif. - \$13,124 for firefighting equipment
- **Carlsbad Fire Department**, Carlsbad, Calif. - \$24,286 for communications equipment
- **East County Fire Protection District**, El Cajon, Calif. - \$15,801 for lifesaving equipment

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- **El Cajon Fire Department**, El Cajon, Calif. - \$30,000 for wildland protective gear
- **Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department**, Escondido, Calif. - \$18,000 for communications and firefighting equipment
- **Intermountain Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department**, Ramona, Calif. - \$20,000 for protective clothing and gear
- **Mt. Laguna Volunteer Fire Department**, Mt. Laguna, Calif. - \$7,602 for firefighting equipment
- **Montezuma Valley Volunteer Fire Department**, Ranchita, Calif. - \$10,000 for communications equipment
- **Pine Valley Protection District**, Pine Valley, Calif. - \$9,000 for wildland protective gear
- **San Diego Fire-Rescue Department**, San Diego, Calif. - \$250,000 for a two-year Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program
- **San Pasqual Fire Department**, Escondido, Calif. - \$15,000 for protective clothing
- **Santee Fire Department**, Santee, Calif. - \$38,880 for wildland protective gear
- **Sunshine Summit Volunteer Fire Department**, Warner Springs, Calif. - \$2,000 for wildland fire retardants
- **Valley Center Fire Protection District**, Valley Center, Calif. - \$10,000 for firefighting equipment
- **Vista Fire Department**, Vista, Calif. - \$29,349 for communications equipment

“We are delighted to support community efforts to help the region become more fire and burn safe,” said Post. “Firefighters devote their lives to keeping all of us safe. We hope that Fireman’s Fund Heritage will help make their jobs a little easier.”

At the award event, FFIC also announced its strategic alliance with the Burn Institute for countywide fire and burn prevention activities. The Burn Institute, based in San Diego, is a non-profit health agency dedicated to reducing burn injuries and deaths through fire and burn prevention education, burn survivor support programs and the funding of burn care research and treatment.

Fireman's Fund Heritage is working with the Burn Institute to create an education campaign for San Diego residents. Residents will be able to take an online quiz to gauge their knowledge on fire and burn prevention techniques and participate in annual Burn Institute events, including the Burn Run/Fire Expo and Firefighters Night at the Padres. Additional activities will run throughout the year, including Public Service Announcements.

Firefighters and rescue workers across the country are facing increased demand for their services as a result of population growth and new threats. At the same time, fire departments face serious funding challenges that leave many volunteer and paid fire departments without the resources for adequate equipment or training.

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In San Diego, the wildfires of 2003 highlighted the increased need for firefighter support as well as for fire and burn prevention and education.

FFIC invited all fire departments in San Diego County to submit proposals for funding through a request for proposal released in mid-February. A special task force of local Fireman's Fund employees evaluated the proposals and determined which departments would receive a portion of the \$500,000 made available in the first round of funding. An outside advisory board comprised of fire chiefs added technical advice to the employee task force. A second RFP will be issued to fire departments in San Diego County later this year, making available up to an additional \$250,000 in funding. FFIC's financial commitment to the region also includes support of fire and burn prevention programs through its alliance with the Burn Institute.

Additional information about this program can be obtained by calling the Fireman's Fund Heritage General Information Line at 1.866.440.8716.

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