

Contact: Danny Perry

T. 212.524.7892

C. 707.386.8476

dperry@ffic.com

For Immediate Release

BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR NAHUNTA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Firefighters to Receive \$12,000 to Purchase New Air Bottle Fill Station

NAHUNTA, N.C. (Feb. 24, 2009) – Budget constraints, which have been made worse by the recent economic downturn, are forcing fire companies across the country to scale back on buying essential firefighting tools and training equipment. But now, thanks to a \$12,000 grant from Rutherford and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department will be able to purchase an air bottle fill station.

Firefighters wear self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) units when entering contaminated environments that contain smoke, fire, or other hazardous materials. Each SCBA, also known as an air pack, is the combination of a facemask and air bottle which is worn on a firefighter's back. The device provides a continuous flow of clean, breathable air. The fill station refills the bottles using compressed air.

"The new fill station will quickly refill our air bottles, allowing us to provide continuous response to fires and other emergencies," said Nahunta Fire Chief Jay Howell. "Ultimately, this will strengthen our rescue efforts and help make our community safer."

"We're glad to give back to the fire service and, in particular, the Nahunta Volunteer Fire Department in a tangible way," said Jennifer Lindsey, vice president and marketing manager for Rutherford. "These firefighters risk their lives everyday to protect residents of their community, so it's essential they have the needed equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively."

Chief Howell will be joined by Nahunta firefighters and local officials, as executives from Rutherford and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company present the grant package:

Date/Time:

Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Location:

Nahunta Vol. Fire Department

3058 Nahunta, Rd.

Pikeville, NC

-MORE-

Page 2: (Nahunta Fire Grant)

The grant package is part of a nationwide philanthropic program funded by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The program is designed to provide needed equipment, training and educational tools to local fire departments. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to over 1,100 different departments totaling more than \$21 million. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman's Fund products, like Rutherford, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About Rutherford

Rutherford is a Virginia-based risk management and insurance brokerage firm of over 300 employees in nine offices throughout the mid-Atlantic region (Alexandria, Atlanta, Charlotte, Hampton Roads, Lynchburg, Philadelphia, Raleigh, Richmond, and Roanoke). It is privately held and employee owned, and currently ranked the 38th largest in the nation among publicly and privately held insurance brokerages and 11th largest among privately held brokers. For more information, visit www.rutherford.com.

About Fireman's Fund

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company is a premier property and casualty insurance company providing personal and commercial insurance products nationwide. It is rated 'AA-' by Standard & Poor's Rating Services. Founded in 1863 with a mission to support firefighters, Fireman's Fund continues this effort today through its national philanthropic work. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and other financial services. For more information, visit www.firemansfund.com.

#####