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For Immediate Release:

LOCAL FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE GRANT FOR CRITICAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT

*New Protective Gear is Vital Component in Protection of Firefighters During
Emergency Incidents*

MATTHEWS, N.C. (March 23, 2009) – It is the most important equipment a firefighter needs when responding to an emergency and now Matthews firefighters will be receiving some of the newest, most effective models.

Management and Safety Services (MaSSCorp) is partnering with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to award a \$6,500 grant to the Matthews Fire and EMS Department for five new sets of turnout gear (jacket, pants, boots and helmet). The department recently has recruited 14 new volunteers who will need gear. Local Dominos Pizza owner Mack Patterson assisted in the grant process by identifying this need within the community.

Turnout gear is the protective, fire-resistant clothing that firefighters wear when responding to incidents like fires or major vehicle crashes. The clothing protects them from exposure to chemicals, heat or flames. The gear also includes a helmet with a face shield that protects firefighters from flying debris. These new sets, which meet National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, will be used to clothe a few of Matthews' newest members.

"It's critical our firefighters have the needed equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively," said Dennis Green, Matthews deputy fire chief. "In terms of personal protection, a firefighter's safety is only as reliable as his or her turnout gear."

The grant package will be presented to the Matthews Fire and EMS Department during a Matthews Town Council meeting:

Date/Time:
Monday, March 23, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Location:
Town Hall
232 Matthews Station St.
Matthews, NC

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“This grant is a token of our appreciation to these firefighters that risk their lives to protect the residents of their community,” said Jeff Murphy, executive director of MaSSCorp. “I want to thank Mack Patterson for bringing awareness of the need within his community.”

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 are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About MaSSCorp

As an association of Domino’s Pizza franchisees serving members nationwide, MaSSCorp has helped franchisees in safety, loss control and insurance for over 20 years. MaSSCorp offers a comprehensive safety and insurance package that exceeds all Domino’s Pizza requirements at a competitive price. To learn more, visit www.masscorp.net.

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.

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