

Contact:
Danny Perry

T. 212.524.7892
C. 707.386.8476
dperry@ffic.com

For Immediate Release

BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR LODI VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

Firefighters to Receive Donation to Purchase New Air Bottles

LODI, N.Y. (March 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 equipment. But now, thanks to a \$5,527 grant awarded by D. J. Colby Company, Inc. and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Lodi Volunteer Fire Company will be able to purchase some much-needed items.

A large portion of the grant funds are earmarked for the purchase of new air bottles. When combined with a facemask, they make up the self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) unit that is worn on a firefighter's back when entering contaminated environments that contain smoke, fire, or other hazardous materials. The air bottles provide a continuous flow of clean, breathable air.

In addition, grant funds will also purchase new hose and universal couplings that allow hose to connect to any type of water supply in order to combat fires.

"Our limited budget prevents us from going out and purchasing all the new, updated equipment we would like," said Lodi Fire Chief Tom Margeit. "This grant will support our rescue efforts and ultimately help make our community safer."

"We're glad to give back to the fire service and, in particular, the Lodi Fire Department in a tangible way," said Fred Hallet, Sr., president of D. J. Colby. "These firefighters risk their lives every day to protect residents of their community, so it's essential they have the needed equipment to do their jobs safely and effectively."

Executives from D. J. Colby and Fireman's Fund will present the grant package to Lodi volunteer firefighters in conjunction with a membership meeting:

Date & Time:
Tuesday, March 24
7:30 p.m.

Location:
Lodi Volunteer Fire Company
8557 South Main St., Route 414
Lodi, NY

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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 D. J. Colby Company, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About D. J. Colby Company, Inc.

From textile fiber to fiber optics, whatever your commercial and personal insurance needs, D. J. Colby has over fifty years of connections and the expertise to help you get the job done. Besides providing fast quotes and access to some of the industries finest companies, D. J. Colby offers something in increasingly short supply – personal attention and respect for your business. To learn more, visit www.djcolby.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.

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