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For Immediate Release

ALPHARETTA TO UNVEIL NEW FIRE SAFETY HOUSE TO COMMUNITY

Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner Oxendine to Discuss Importance of Fire Safety

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (March 25, 2009) – According to the U.S. Fire Administration, among children age 14 and under, an estimated 2,800 are injured and 850 killed each year in residential fires nationwide. Now, thanks to a partnership consisting of public and private entities, the City of Alpharetta has received a fire safety house that will be used by the fire department to teach critical fire safety education to thousands of children in Alpharetta and the northern Fulton County area.

Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and two of its agents, CSI Insurance Agency Inc. and Marine-N-Surance Brokers, have partnered with the City of Alpharetta, as well as the Rotary Club of Alpharetta, to fund the purchase of the \$59,000 safety house.

“These houses reinforce valuable fire safety lessons that often last a lifetime,” pointed out John W. Oxendine, insurance and safety fire commissioner for the state of Georgia. “In addition, as children become educated, they often pass lessons learned onto family members in their household.”

The safety house is a large modified trailer which can simulate fire, smoke and heat in a home in order to teach safety and fire escape techniques. As part of each tour, the instructor fills a room in the house with simulated smoke and uses a heated door to teach kids about the fire on the other side. The house includes: a smoke machine that provides realistic, although non-hazardous smoke; a training component, including a tornado simulator, that teaches proper response when confronted with severe weather conditions; and a non-functional stove that teaches vital safety lessons associated with the kitchen area. The safety house will be set up at local schools, safety fairs, and other community events.

Commissioner Oxendine will join Alpharetta Mayor Arthur Letchas, as well as city, state and fire officials, in addition to executives from Fireman's Fund, CSI Insurance, Marine-N-Surance, and the local rotary club, for the unveiling of the fire safety house. **Classes of children will get the opportunity to tour the house.**

Date/Time:
Weds., March 25, 2009
11:00 a.m.

Location:
Alpharetta Fire Dept., Station 1
2970 Webb Bridge Rd.
Alpharetta, GA

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“Fire safety is essential to keeping communities safe, and that focus begins with our children,” said Alpharetta Mayor Arthur Letchas. “A lack of funding prevented us from purchasing the house in prior years, but great determination and strong partnerships have allowed this project to come to fruition.”

The donated package was paid for, in part, by 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 donations to over 1,100 different departments totaling more than \$21 million. Over \$1 million has been awarded in the state of Georgia. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products are able to direct these donations to support fire departments.

“Being based in Alpharetta, it brings me great pleasure to support such a worthy endeavor,” said John Carr, president of CSI Insurance.

“Recognizing this safety house could ultimately help save lives, prompted me to get involved in this project,” said Paul Greenaway, president of Marine-N-Surance.

“We’ve been strengthening the Alpharetta community for over 25 years, so our support of this venture is just a continuation of that mission,” stated John Hipes, president of the rotary club.

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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