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For Immediate Release

ASBURY PARK COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT

\$25,000 Grant to Support Fire Department's Rescue Efforts

ASBURY PARK, N.J. (April 6, 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 \$25,000 grant awarded by Quaker Special Risk and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Asbury Park Fire Department will be able to purchase essential equipment to strengthen its rescue efforts.

Donated funds will be used to purchase four durable high-tech laptop computers that will be placed on fire trucks and two "drysuits" used during water rescue operations.

The computers will store critical pre-emergency response data such as street and hydrant locations, shut-offs for commercial structures, as well as incident management reports, including information on hazardous materials. They are shock resistant and designed to withstand extreme temperatures, with the ability to operate between 20 and 140 degrees.

"The pre-fire planning information stored inside the computers will allow our firefighters to be better prepared once they arrive at the emergency scene, which is vital because every second counts," said Asbury Park Fire Chief Kevin Keddy. "The drysuits will provide much needed protection for our rescue workers, regardless of whether they're entering the ocean, a lake, or involved in a dive rescue."

Chief Keddy will be joined by Asbury Park firefighters and local officials, as executives from Quaker Special Risk and Fireman's Fund present the grant package to the fire department during a city council meeting:

Date & Time:
Wednesday, May 6, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Location:
Asbury Park City Council Chambers
1 Municipal Plaza
Asbury Park, NJ

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“We realize municipalities across the country are tightening budgets and, unfortunately, fire departments are being asked to do more with less resources,” said Frank Walsh, president of Quaker Special Risk. “As a resident of Monmouth County, I’m glad that my brokerage firm is able to give back to the Asbury Park community in a meaningful way.”

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 \$22 million. In Monmouth County, over \$100,000 has been awarded, while fire departments in the state of New Jersey have received in excess of \$700,000. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Quaker Special Risk, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About Quaker Special Risk

Since 1960, Quaker Special Risk has been helping insurance agents and brokers throughout the U.S. develop unique insurance coverages for their clients. QSR has created special programs to fit either an insured's specific needs or a unique manuscript form as required by state and national trade associations. For more information, visit www.qsr-insurance.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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