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For Immediate Release

BREATH OF FRESH AIR FOR LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS

Fall Church Volunteers to Receive Upgraded Self-Contained Breathing Apparatuses

ARLINGTON, Va. (April 13, 2009) – Budget constraints, which have been made worse by the recent economic downturn, have forced fire departments across the country to scale back on buying much needed equipment. But now, thanks to a \$6,180 grant awarded by Early, Cassidy & Shilling, Inc., and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department will be able to upgrade some of its existing equipment to meet federal regulations.

Grant funds will be used to upgrade the department's current self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBAs), also known as air packs, which are the combination of a facemask and air cylinder which is worn on a firefighter's back. This gear provides a continuous flow of clean, breathable air when firefighters are in a contaminated environment with smoke, fire, or other hazardous materials. Specifically, the SCBAs will be outfitted with new facemasks and components, referred to as regulators, which feature a heads-up display indicating to the user the status of their air supply.

"The new regulators meet National Fire Protection Association guidelines and are certified for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear exposures," said Patrick Evinger, assistant fire chief for Falls Church. "Also, the components include a quick disconnect set up enabling a firefighter whose SCBA is failing to connect to another firefighter's air pack."

"I cannot think of a better way to give back to the community than by supporting a volunteer fire department," said Andrew Cassidy, executive vice president for Early, Cassidy & Shilling. "These firefighters risk their live everyday to protect their community, so it's paramount they have the needed equipment to do their jobs safely."

Falls Church firefighters will be joined by executives from Early, Cassidy & Shilling and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company for a special event where the grant package will be presented:

Date/Time:
Monday, April 13, 2009
6:30 p.m.

Location:
Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department
6950 Little Falls Rd.
Arlington, VA

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The donated package was paid for through 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. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman's Fund products, like Early, Cassidy & Shilling, are able to direct these donations to support fire departments.

About Early, Cassidy & Schilling, Inc.

Early, Cassidy & Schilling, Inc. is one of the largest, independent agencies in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, with experience in all lines of insurance. The firm has served its clients' needs since 1927. Their growth and success are attributable to one basic tenet: uncompromising commitment to providing professional insurance services. To learn more, visit www.ecsinsure.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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