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For Immediate Release

## **BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT**

### *Rescue Squad to Receive New Tools to Strengthen its Rescue Efforts*

BETHESDA, Md. (April 16, 2009) – Budget constraints, which have been made worse by the recent economic downturn, are forcing rescue squads across the country to scale back on buying essential rescue tools. But now, thanks to a \$5,150 grant being awarded by Chevy Chase-based Howard Insurance Agency, Inc. and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad (BCCRS) will be able to purchase new equipment to strengthen its rescue efforts.

Specifically, grant funds will purchase a top-of-the-line extrication cutter that allows first responders to cut through any metal to quickly and safely extricate a victim of a vehicular accident. This will replace an outdated model.

“New automobiles and other vehicles are being built with high-strength frameworks, which many current extrication tools cannot cut through,” said Ned Sherburne, Fire/Rescue Chief of BCCRS. “Fortunately, our new cutter will be twice as powerful as the average cutter that’s currently being used by most first responders. Annually, we respond to more than 1,300 vehicle collision calls, including many involving truck collisions on the beltway. This tool will provide additional safety to the community.”

Grant funds are also earmarked for a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device that contains an oxygen bag, along with facemask and tubing, which supports breathing for patients short of breath. The system is used by EMTs in various lifesaving situations, including the period right after an individual has nearly drowned and has been resuscitated. Medical studies have shown that patients receiving CPAP have improved outcomes and shorter hospital stays.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase first responders will be joined by local officials and executives from Howard Insurance and Fireman's Fund for the presentation of the grant package. BCCRS response personnel will demonstrate the new extrication cutter.

**Date & Time:**  
**Thurs., April 16**  
**12:00 Noon**

**Location:**  
**Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad**  
**5020 Battery Lane**  
**Bethesda, MD**

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“We realize the negative affect the downturn in the economy is having across the country, especially with rescue workers,” said Andrew Howard, vice president for Howard Insurance. “Taking that into account, and the fact we have an office right in Chevy Chase, we’re proud to support this rescue squad in a tangible 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 \$21 million. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Howard Insurance, are able to direct these grants to support fire service organizations.

### **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](http://www.firemansfund.com).

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