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For Immediate Release

## **SCHENECTADY FIREFIGHTERS TO BE BETTER PROTECTED WHEN ENTERING BURNING BUILDINGS**

### *Donation Funds New High-Tech System to Track Firefighters*

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. (May 11, 2009) – Firefighters risk their lives everyday to rescue civilians trapped inside burning buildings and now Schenectady firefighters will be better protecting during these emergency operations thanks to a \$6,874 grant that will purchase a firefighter location system.

The donation to the Schenectady Fire Department is being awarded by Cool Insuring Agency, Inc. and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company.

The location system, which contains transmitters that connect to firefighter's personal protection equipment or self-contained breathing apparatus, can help quickly locate a trapped or downed first responder in a burning building. These devices, which have manual and automatic activation, are monitored by a hand-held receiver that can track firefighters from over 900 feet away. Grant funds will purchase 22 transmitters, two receivers, and two charging systems.

"The inside of a burning building is a very chaotic environment, which can cause injuries and lost communication among firefighters," said Schenectady Fire Chief Robert Farstad. "This system gives a designated fire official the ability to locate all firefighters inside the structure, allowing them to respond to any distress signal."

"We always want to ensure our firefighters have access to the best safety tools available," said Schenectady Mayor Brian U. Stratton. "The location system will not only better protect these men and women, but it will also allow them to do their jobs more effectively."

The grant package will be presented to Chief Farstad and Mayor Stratton during a city council meeting. Chief Farstad will demonstration usage of the location system:

**Date/Time:**

**Monday, May 11, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Schenectady City Hall (2nd Fl., Room # 209)**

**105 Jay Street**

**Schenectady, 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 Cool Insuring, are able to direct these grants to support fire service organizations.

"We're glad to support the fire service and, in particular, the Schenectady Fire Department in a tangible way," said Ira Neifeld of Cool Insuring. "In this economic climate, we realize the funding constraints faced by fire departments across the country."

### **About Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.**

Cool Insuring Agency's rich history and dedication to its clients has helped Cool grow into one of the largest and most innovative corporate and small business insurance agencies in the industry. Cool's 110 employees are located in full-service insurance offices in Glens Falls, N.Y. (where the firm was founded in 1857), as well as Latham, N.Y. (Albany County), and Vestal, N.Y. (Broome County). Cool offers a broad array of property and casualty products to personal, commercial, institutional, and governmental clients throughout the country, as well as throughout the world. For further information, visit [www.coolins.com](http://www.coolins.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](http://www.firemansfund.com)

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