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For Immediate Release

## **“FLASHOVER” TRAINING FACILITY TO BETTER PROTECT HARTFORD FIREFIGHTERS AND CIVILIANS**

*Unit Helps Train Firefighters to Detect Deadly Fire Eruptions Inside Buildings*

HARTFORD, Conn. (June 11, 2009) – Nationwide in 2007, 102 firefighters died in the line of duty with 36 of those deaths occurring within a structural fire, where fatal “flashovers” can occur. A flashover is created when heat generated by a fire can no longer be absorbed by its surroundings, causing the room to ignite and explode.

Colemont Insurance Brokers and Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company have partnered to award a \$43,895 grant to the City of Hartford Fire Department for a flashover training facility that allows firefighters to observe fire behavior and the signs of an impending flashover in a controlled setting.

The training facility, which looks like an oversize metal cargo container, is housed at the Hartford Fire Department Training Academy and will be used to train the department’s firefighters as well as neighboring department firefighters.

“This flashover simulator, which replicates real-life flashover fire situations, will train our firefighters to recognize pre-flashover conditions that will enhance their personal safety as well as the safety of the citizens we protect,” said City of Hartford Fire Chief Charles A. Teale, Sr. “Ultimately, this can be the difference between life and death.”

Chief Teale will be joined by Hartford firefighters and local officials for the unveiling of the flashover simulator facility. **A brief firefighter training session will take place with a discussion of the simulator’s usage.** In addition, executives from Colemont Insurance Brokers and Fireman’s Fund will present the official grant check:

**Date & Time:**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2009**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:**  
**Hartford Fire Depart. Training Academy**  
**1 Fischer Rd.**  
**Hartford, CT**

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“Our brokerage firm is very proud to support this worthy endeavor, understanding that several hundred firefighters in and around the Hartford community will receive critical fire safety training,” said Mike Cassidy, senior vice president for Colemont Insurance Brokers. “These firefighters risk their lives everyday to protect their community, so it’s essential they receive the best training available.”

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. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Colemont Insurance Brokers, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

### **About Colemont Insurance Brokers**

Colemont Insurance Brokers is ranked among the largest specialty insurance brokers in the United States. Founded in 1992, the company is now home to over 400 insurance professionals across the country. With access to hundreds of specialty lines, markets, and programs, as well as in-house underwriting facilities, Colemont's brokers and underwriters are highly experienced at placing almost any property, casualty, transportation, or financial services risk. For more invitation, visit [www.colemont.com](http://www.colemont.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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