



Fireman's FundSM
Insurance Company

A company of **Allianz** 

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRE DEPARTMENTS RECEIVE \$21,000 GRANT FOR CANINE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAMS

Los Angeles County, Orange County and Montebello to Receive New Training

ANAHEIM, Calif., (June 19, 2009) – Veterinary Insurance Services Company (VISC) and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company are announcing the recipients of three Southern California fire department grants totaling \$21,000 to support the training and readiness of the canine urban search and rescue teams.

The Los Angeles County, Orange County and Montebello fire departments will each receive a \$7,000 grant to attend advanced training classes to increase its search and rescue capabilities. The grants will cover the cost for the team's travel, transportation, lodging, and registration fees.

"This grant provides us with a unique opportunity to receive advanced rescue training that will enhance and strengthen our urban search and rescue team's ability to best serve our communities," said Fire Captain Marc Valentine of the Montebello Fire Department.

The grant is part of the Heritage ProgramSM, 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 more than 1,100 different departments totaling more than \$22 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund, like VISC, are able to direct these grants to support the fire service.

VISC and Fireman's Fund will present the grant checks to the Los Angeles County, Orange County and Montebello fire departments at the Pacific Veterinary Conference awards ceremony.

Date/Time:
Friday, June 19, 2009
6:15 pm

Location:
Anaheim Marriott
Grand Ballroom F
700 W. Convention Way
Anaheim, CA 92802

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"VISC is pleased to recognize these Canine Rescue Units, which utilize the special talents of their dogs to help rescue those in distress. The handlers train and provide proper loving care to these animals. The dogs are more than partners or an asset to the department and community - they are life savers and they are family," said George Hagosian, VISC.

About VISC

Veterinary Insurance Services Company (VISC) is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) and the only brokerage endorsed by the CVMA. VISC is a full service insurance brokerage that strives to maintain customer satisfaction through an array of superior products and services specifically designed to meet the business and personal needs of CVMA members.

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. Fireman's Fund is a member of the Allianz Group (NYSE: AZ), one of the world's largest providers of insurance and financial services. For additional information, visit www.firemansfund.com.

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