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For Immediate Release

## **EAST PROVIDENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO RECEIVE ESSENTIAL NEW EQUIPMENT**

### *New Fire Hose Will Strengthen Firefighting Operations*

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI. (June 25, 2009) – Budget constraints, which have been made worse by the recent economic downturn, are forcing fire departments across the country to scale back on buying essential equipment. But now, thanks to a \$5,000 grant, the East Providence Fire Department will be able to purchase new fire hose to strengthen its firefighting capabilities.

East Providence-based Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc. is partnering with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to award the grant.

Grant funds are earmarked for new supply hose, which is used to supply water from fire hydrants to fire trucks during firefighting operations. The implementation of new hose will begin the process of replacing departmental hose that has exceeded its lifespan.

“The majority of our supply hose is between 12 and 14 years old,” said East Providence Fire Chief Joseph J. Klucznik. “The National Fire Protection Association, though, recommends a maximum hose life of 10 years. Last year we had to remove 1000 feet of hose from service because of failures during yearly testing, so this new hose will provide our department with more stability and reliability when fighting fires.”

Chief Klucznik will be joined by East Providence firefighters and local officials, as executives from Starkweather & Shepley and Fireman's Fund present the grant package. Chief Klucznik will discuss how the new hose will strengthen the department's firefighting capabilities:

**Date & Time:**  
**Thursday, June 25, 2009**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:**  
**East Providence Fire Department**  
**913 Broadway**  
**East Providence, RI**

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“With cities across the country tightening their budgets, we realize that fire departments are being asked to do more with fewer resources,” said Nat Calamis, president and CEO of Starkweather & Shepley. “I’m glad my brokerage firm is able to give back to the East Providence community in a meaningful 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 \$22 million. Independent insurance brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Starkweather & Shepley, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

### **Starkweather & Shepley Insurance Brokerage, Inc.**

Starkweather & Shepley is a full-service insurance broker with offices located throughout Rhode Island. Currently celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Starkweather & Shepley provides commercial, personal auto, home, life and health, employee benefits, professional liability, and collectables insurance as well as other risk management programs. As the largest independent agency in Rhode Island, and ranked among The Top 100 Independent Agencies in the United States, Starkweather & Shepley has the resources and the experience to find solutions to your insurance needs. For more information, visit [www.starshep.com](http://www.starshep.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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