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For Immediate Release

LOCAL VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS TO RECEIVE NEW LIFESAVING RESCUE EQUIPMENT

New Tools to Enhance Henrietta Volunteer Fire Department's Emergency Response Efforts

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. (Aug. 21, 2009) – The current economic downturn is negatively impacting fire departments across the country, according to a new, national survey of firefighters sponsored by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. The survey, which polled 30 percent of all fire departments in the country, revealed that more than half of the departments have had to increase fundraising efforts due to budget cutbacks.

Now, thanks to a \$6,600 grant being awarded by Commercial Insurance Associates, LLC and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Henrietta Volunteer Fire Department will be able to purchase essential new equipment to enhance its emergency operations.

Specifically, grant funds are earmarked for rescue jacks that are used to stabilize overturned vehicles so first responders can safely remove trapped victims. The jacks have various other purposes, including structural collapse stabilization. Grant funds are also earmarked for flashlights and 15 multifaceted handheld rescue tools that can, among other things, pry open windows and doors and cut cables.

"The tools we're receiving aren't luxury items—they're essential pieces of equipment that will help us better protect and serve our community," said Henrietta Fire Chief Jeff Bagwell. "For example, the quicker we can stabilize an overturn vehicle, the faster we can get injured victims to the hospital."

Chief Bagwell will be joined by Henrietta firefighters and local officials as Commercial Insurance and Fireman's Fund present the grant package. Chief Bagwell will discuss how the tools will enhance the department's rescue efforts.

Date/Time:
Thursday, Sept. 3, 2009
11:00 a.m.

Location:
Henrietta Vol. Fire Department
4301 Hwy 12 North
Ashland City, TN

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“First responders are being asked to do more with fewer resources,” said Johnny Thompson, principal of Commercial Insurance Associates. “Taking that into account, we’re glad to support this fire department and community 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 1,400 different departments totaling more than \$23 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Commercial Insurance Associates, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About Commercial Insurance Associates, LLC

The mission of Commercial Insurance Associates, LLC is to serve as a valued insurance advisor, assisting its clients in managing their risks through an interactive approach that combines observation, analysis, and discovery and emphasizes the professional practice of insurance, both as an art and a science. For more information, contact www.com-ins.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.

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