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For Immediate Release

OAKLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY TO RECEIVE ESSENTIAL NEW EQUIPMENT

New Tools to Enhance Emergency Response Efforts

JOHNSTOWN, Pa. (Aug 21, 2009) – The current economic downturn is negatively impacting fire departments in the state of Pennsylvania, 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, including 915 in Pennsylvania, found that 66 percent of Pennsylvania departments have had delays in purchasing new equipment.

Now, thanks to an \$8,312 grant being awarded by Johnstown-based Gleason Insurance and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Oakland Volunteer Fire Company will be receiving essential new equipment to strengthen its rescue efforts.

Specifically, grant funds are earmarked for, among other things: radio communication equipment to better support communication among firefighters at emergency scenes, foam used to extinguish fires, remote lighting systems for needed fire ground lighting at night, GPS systems that will help improve the fire company's emergency response times, and helmets.

"It's critical firefighters have the needed tools so we can do our jobs safely and effectively," said Oakland Fire Chief Thomas L. Callihan. "These pieces of equipment aren't luxury items—they're essential tools that will enhance our ability to protect and serve."

Chief Callihan will be joined by Oakland volunteer firefighters and local officials as he discusses the new equipment and how the tools will benefit the fire company's rescue efforts. The grant package will be presented by Gleason Insurance and Fireman's Fund:

Date/Time:
Friday, July 21, 2009
1:00 p.m.

Location:
Oakland Volunteer Fire Company
1741 Bedford St.
Johnston, PA

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"These days, firefighters are being asked to do more with fewer resources," said Robert A. Gleason, Jr., chairman and CEO of Gleason. "Taking that into account and the fact we've been in Johnstown since 1924, we're glad to support this 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 1,400 different departments totaling more than \$23 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products, like Gleason Insurance, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About Gleason Insurance

Gleason is a diversified corporation comprised of three complementary companies: Gleason Insurance, Gleason Financial and Gleason Technology. From creating unique insurance programs to revolutionizing facility inspection processes, Gleason consistently provides innovative and cost-efficient solutions to a diverse national client list. To learn more, visit www.gleasoninc.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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