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For Immediate Release

CLARENCE CENTER FIREFIGHTERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING DEVICE

*Smoke Generator Will Enable High-Level Training by Simulating
Smoke Conditions Inside Burning Buildings*

CLARENCE CENTER, N.Y. (Aug. 25, 2009) – The current economic downturn is negatively impacting fire departments in the state of New York, 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, included 828 departments in New York, found that 69 percent of New York departments have had delays in replacing equipment.

Now, thanks to a \$7,500 grant being awarded by Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, Inc. (IIABNY) and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Clarence Center Volunteer Fire Company will be able to purchase a state-of-the-art smoke generator. The Independent Insurance Agents Association of Western New York assisted in the grant process.

The smoke generating device produces non-hazardous white smoke that enables high-level training for firefighters by simulating smoke conditions inside burning buildings.

"We're in the process of building a training facility, and the smoke generator will allow us to safely and effectively simulate real fire conditions throughout the building," said Clarence Center Fire Chief David Case. "Ultimately, this will allow us to better protect and serve the Clarence Center community."

Chief Case will be joined by local officials and volunteer firefighters as he discusses the smoke generator and how it will support the department's emergency response efforts. Executives from IIAABNY and Fireman's Fund will present the grant package:

Date/Time:
Thurs., Sept. 10, 2009
6:30 pm.

Location:
Clarence Center Vol. Fire Co.
9415 Clarence Center Rd.
Clarence Center, NY

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"These days firefighters are being asked to do more with fewer resources," said Dick Poppa, president and CEO of IIABNY. "Taking that into account and the fact these firefighters and the whole Clarence Center community had to endure the Flight 3407 disaster, 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 are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

About Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, Inc.

The Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, Inc., commonly known as IIABNY, exists to fulfill the educational, political, and business interests of more than 1,800 members. The organization's members are independent insurance agents and brokers, which means that they can provide consumers with a choice of products from more than one insurance company and in turn give consumers unrivaled service, and the best auto, homeowner and business coverage to meet their changing needs. To learn more, visit www.iiabny.org.

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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