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## **For Immediate Release**

# **MAITLAND FIREFIGHTERS RECEIVING SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

### *Educational Courses Helping Better Prepare Firefighters for Emergencies*

MAITLAND, Fla. (Sept. 17, 2009) – Firefighters that receive advance training are better prepared to protect themselves and the residents of their community during emergencies. Now, thanks to a \$10,140 donation, Maitland firefighters are receiving the best training possible.

Maitland-based Halcyon Underwriters, Inc. have partnered with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company to award Maitland Fire-Rescue the grant.

Maitland firefighters are receiving critical firefighting education via three separate courses.

- "Reading Smoke and the Art of First Due" will better prepare members to identify and predict fire behavior and the likelihood of an explosion or rapid fire spread
- "Modern Residential Fire Tactics" will review new versus old residential construction and be customized to the fire department and local strategies
- A classroom and hands-on training section focusing on hazardous materials and how to perform basic control and containment

"We're bringing industry experts in to teach these courses, which are presented at national and international conferences," said Maitland Fire Chief Ken Neuhard. "This training will result in our firefighters being better prepared to protect and serve the citizens and visitors of Maitland."

**In conjunction with a hands-on hazardous materials exercise, Mayor Douglas T. Kinson and Chief Neuhard will officially accept the grant check during a recognition ceremony.** Chief Neuhard will discuss how grant funding is strengthening the department's emergency efforts.

**Date/Time:**  
**Friday, Sept. 18, 2009**  
**2:00 p.m.**

**Location:**  
**Maitland Civic Center (parking lot)**  
**641 S. Maitland Ave.**  
**Maitland, FL**

*Note: In case of inclement weather, the event will be held inside of Civic Center.*

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**Page 2: (Maitland Fire Grant)**

“We realize the negative affect the economy is having across the country and, in particular, within the fire service,” said Paul Lyons, executive director for Halcyon Underwriters. “Being located in Maitland, our office is proud to support this department and the 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. In the state of Florida, over \$800,000 has been awarded. Independent insurance agencies/brokers that sell Fireman’s Fund products, like Halcyon Underwriters, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

**About Halcyon Underwriters, Inc.**

Halcyon Underwriters, Inc. is a standard/preferred market wholesaler specializing in all lines of coverage for "general" type business as well as insurance for specific lines of coverage. Halcyon prides itself on offering excellent service, competitive pricing and knowledgeable advice. All of Halcyon’s business is underwritten by insurance companies rated “A-” or better by A.M. Best. Halcyon offers competitive and comprehensive markets for small and large accounts, including markets for Excess & Surplus lines business.

**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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