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For Immediate Release

## **WESTBURY COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION UPGRADE**

### *New Programmable Radios to Strengthen Fire Department's On-Scene Emergency Communications*

WESTBURY, N.Y. (July 30, 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 awarded by HUB International Northeast and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company, the Westbury Fire District will be able to purchase programmable portable radios. Westbury-based Autronic Plastics, Inc., an industry leading molding company, assisted in the grant process.

The new equipment will allow the district to complete upgrading of its fire ground communications system, which has been hampered by all radio transmissions sharing the same frequency.

"At the scene of a fire, the environment can be very chaotic, which can make it hard for firefighters to clearly communicate with each other," said Westbury Fire Chief George Perrin, Westbury Fire Chief. "The new radios will assist us in providing unencumbered communications, which ultimately will support the safety of our volunteers and civilians."

Chief Perrin will be joined by Westbury firefighters as he discusses the department's new fire ground communications system. The grant package will be presented by HUB International Northeast and Fireman's Fund:

**Date/Time:**  
**Thursday, July 30, 2009**  
**11:00 a.m.**

**Location:**  
**Westbury Fire Department**  
**355 Maple Ave.**  
**Westbury, NY**

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## **Page 2: (Wesbury Fire Grant)**

“First responders are being asked to do more with fewer resources,” said Doug Schenendorf, president of the Long Island division of HUB International Northeast. “Taking that into account and the fact HUB does business in Westbury, we’re glad to support this 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 HUB International Northeast, are able to direct these grants to support fire departments.

### **About HUB International Limited**

HUB International Limited is a leading North American insurance brokerage that provides a broad array of property and casualty, life and health, employee benefits, reinsurance, investment and risk management products and services throughout offices located in the United States and Canada. For more information, visit [www.hubinternational.com](http://www.hubinternational.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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