

Press Release

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FEMA AWARDS MORE THAN \$200,000 TO ALABAMA FIRE DEPARTMENTS FROM THE ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT (AFG) PROGRAM

ATLANTA – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded \$207,167 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program to local fire departments and emergency responders in the state of Alabama.

"Proper staffing, equipment and training are vital to America's first responders," said FEMA Regional Administrator Phil May. "Through the AFG program, FEMA is helping fire departments throughout the country to meet those needs so they can provide citizens with safety and protection during times of crisis."

This week's round of the national Assistance to Firefighters Grants include grants provided to the following first responders in Alabama:

FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program

Greenville FD	Greenville	Operations and Safety	\$47,500
Franklin VFD	Tuskegee	Operations and Safety	\$54,782
Sylacauga FD	Sylacauga	Operations and Safety	\$104,885

The Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program is an important component of the administration's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the nation's overall level of preparedness. The AFG is designed to enhance response capabilities and to more effectively protect the health and safety of the public with respect to fire and other hazards. The grants enable local fire departments and emergency medical services organizations to purchase or receive training, conduct first responder health and safety programs, and buy equipment and response vehicles.

These grant programs are administered cooperatively by two FEMA components: the Grant Programs Directorate and the United States Fire Administration. The full list of past and current recipients and other Assistance to Firefighter Grant program information is posted on the AFG website at (www.firegrantsupport.com).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.