



**FEMA**

# Press Release

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## **FEMA AWARDS MORE THAN \$4.7 MILLION 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 \$4,709,395 from the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program to local fire departments and emergency responders in the state of Alabama.

“Disaster preparation doesn’t begin when a hurricane is in the ocean or when flood waters are beginning to rise,” said FEMA Regional Administrator Phil May. “At the local level, true preparation begins by ensuring our first responders have the tools, skills and personnel to respond to any event.”

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

### **FY 2009 Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program**

Baker Hill VFD	Eufaula	Operations and Safety	\$67,070
Bellwood VFD	Bellwood	Operations and Safety	\$246,240
Emerald Mountain VFD	Wetumpka	Operations and Safety	\$46,085
Centre FD	Centre	Operations and Safety	\$76,950
Lookout Mountain VFD	Gadsden	Operations and Safety	\$44,935
Owens VFD	Athens	Operations and Safety	\$29,700
Forestdale Fire District	Birmingham	Operations and Safety	\$55,708

### **FY 2009 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Program**

East Alabama Water Sewer & Fire Protection District	Valley	Fire Prevention	\$37,630
Mountain Brook FD	Mountain Brook	Fire Prevention	\$8,742

### **FY 2009 SAFER Grants Program**

Mobile Fire-Rescue Dept.	Mobile	Hiring	\$2,532,827
Decatur Fire & Rescue	Decatur	Hiring	\$1,563,508

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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.

The Department of Homeland Security's Fire Prevention and Safety Grants (FP&S) grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and mitigate high incidences of death and injury. Examples of the types of projects supported by FP&S include fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile firesetter interventions, media campaigns, and arson prevention and awareness programs.

The Department of Homeland Security's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, "front-line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards.

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](http://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.*

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