

## July 16, 2008 - Murtha Announces Local Fire Department Grants

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released Assistance to Firefighters Grants to 12th District volunteer fire departments.

"Nearly 75 percent of our nation's 35,000 local fire agencies are volunteer," commented Murtha. "Their jobs are made more difficult by shrinking budgets that don't have the flexibility for funding equipment, training or new vehicles. These grants help our firefighters and EMS organizations respond safely and efficiently, so that they can do a better job protecting our communities."

These competitive grants are provided to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS. Since 2004, Assistance to Firefighters Grants has provided a total of almost \$2.75 billion to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles. Organizations to enhance first responders' ability to protect the health and safety of the public and that of first-responder personnel.

### Cambria County

John Carroll Ambulance Service	\$109,250 (Vehicle Acquisition)
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### Somerset County

Scalp Level and Paint Fire Company	\$69,136 (Operations & Safety)
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### Westmoreland County

George G. McMurtry Fire Dept. Vandergrift No. 1	\$32,067 (Operations & Safety)
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