

## January 28, 2009 - Murtha Announces Washington, PA SAFER Fire Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman

John P. Murtha announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has released an Assistance to Firefighters Grant to South Franklin Volunteer Fire Department in Washington, PA. The grant is part of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, which enhances the ability of local fire departments to attain and maintain 24-hour staffing to assure that their communities have adequate protection from fire hazards.

"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."

The objective of the Recruitment and Retention of Volunteer Firefighters activity is to create a more favorable working environment for volunteer firefighters. Such an environment would encourage current volunteers to continue with their volunteerism as well as entice new volunteers to join.

Washington  
County

South Franklin Volunteer  
Fire Department (Recruitment) \$40,000

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